

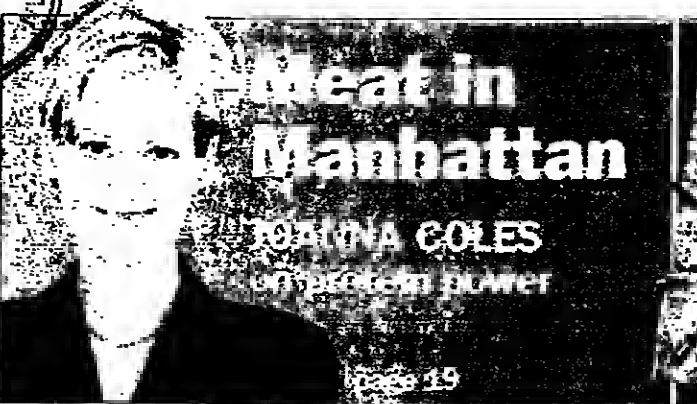
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# THE TIMES

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## Party prepares to block Livingstone

# Blair seeks mayor from big business

By Philip Webster, Roland Watson and Jill Sherman

TONY BLAIR is looking for a substantial business figure with proven executive abilities to come forward as the first elected mayor of London.

As the London Labour Party took the first step to prevent Ken Livingstone being chosen as its official candidate for the election in 2000, it emerged that the Prime Minister was searching well beyond the ranks of politicians. He has told colleagues that he wants someone who has proved that he or she can run things.

Mr Blair has studied the role and performance of American mayors and had talks with Mayor Rudy Giuliani of New York six weeks ago. Many American mayors made their names running big organisations before entering city politics, such as Mayor Richard Riordan of Los Angeles.

The disclosure that Mr Blair is casting the net wider will come as a blow to people who have been floated as contenders, such as Glenda Jackson, the Transport Minister, and Pauline Green, leader of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament.

Mr Blair is not believed to have a preferred candidate, but people of the stature of Bob Ayling, chief executive of British Airways, and Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, would fit his job descrip-



"So it's not mayor Livingstone, I presume?"

also operate across Labour's local government structure.

There is a widespread view that Mr Livingstone will be regarded as beyond the pale because of his criticism of the leadership.

But Mr Livingstone insisted that he was no "frank from the fringe", nor a threat to the leadership, and he suggested that he was backed by the vast majority of London Labour members.

He was proud to stand on his record. "Virtually everything I did as leader of the GLC has now become official party policy - pro-public transport, democratic control of the police, we have homosexuals in the Cabinet, we have over 100 women MPs, even negotiating with Sinn Fein," Margaret Beckett, Leader of the Commons, denied the party hierarchy was trying to control the selection process. "Given that there are so many elections and so many candidates, it is very clear that what the Labour Government is doing is devolving power."

There were other Labour Party members besides Mr Livingstone who would like to stand for Mayor of London. Members did not have to be famous to make good candidates.

Peter Riddell, page 12



In the pink: Peter Young arriving at court and, above right, as he was known at work



## Banker has his day in court as a woman

By Paul Durman

A LEADING City investment manager dressed for the occasion when he appeared in a London court on fraud charges yesterday. Peter Young arrived wearing lipstick and makeup, a calf-length skirt and low heels - and asked to be known as Elizabeth.

Mr Young, 40, was formerly a sober-suited fund manager at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management. He and three other men are charged with a conspiracy to defraud the trustees or investors of three Deutsche Morgan Grenfell investment funds, which at one point held £1.3 billion on behalf of 180,000 investors. A preliminary hearing at the City of London Magistrates' Court, the four were released on bail until March 15.

The problems at Morgan Grenfell two years ago caused Deutsche Bank, the firm's German parent, to inject £180 million into the funds. Subsequent compensation payments to investors have cost the bank a further £200 million.

Mr Young is charged with Erik Langaker and Jan Helge Johnsen. The fourth defendant, Stewart Armer, another former Morgan Grenfell fund manager, was not in court yesterday because he is currently studying in Chile.

## Whitehall slow to take own advice over bug

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

NINE Whitehall departments and agencies will be named today as the worst prepared inside the Government to cope with the millennium bug.

Topping the "high-risk" list of those whose computer systems may not recognise the date change from 1999 to 2000, are the Department of Trade and Industry, the Home Office, the Foreign Office, the Ministry of Defence, the Northern Ireland Office, the Environment Agency, the Medicines Control Agency, the NHS Estates and the Office of National Statistics.

According to analysis of the departments' own plans, computer experts believe the nine are struggling to meet their own targets, are slipping behind deadlines and have not even started programmes of spot checks on their systems.

Delays are likely to cost a total of up to £10 billion, as opposed to the £3 billion forecast by Tony Blair last March.

But Taskforce 2000, an independent company which has analysed information published by Whitehall, fears the picture could be even worse in the wider public sector, with emergency services under threat, and possible disruption of nuclear power stations, the Post Office, broadcasting and the utility companies.

In a separate report yesterday the Audit Commission also warned that a number of local authorities and NHS Trusts were lagging behind in their preparations to deal with the bug. Andrew Foster, the director, said he would publish a league table of the offending bodies in the spring if action was not taken.

## £10m aid for Honduras

Britain and France committed £10 million each to a new trust fund to help Honduras and Nicaragua to service their debts as they begin rebuilding after the devastation of Hurricane Mitch.

American aid is now arriving in the stricken region and relief officials said that help was finally reaching even the most inaccessible areas. Page 17

# Soldiers face court martial for talking about TA cuts

By Nicholas Wood

BRITAIN'S 170,000 soldiers have been warned that they will face a court martial if they leak secret information about planned cuts in the Territorial Army.

The edict has been issued in an order from General Sir Michael Walker, the Commander-in-Chief of Land Command, who said that even "idle chatter on social occasions" about the cuts would imperil military careers.

But his letter, leaked to *The Times*, was immediately denounced as an "extraordinary attempt" to stifle the argument about the future shape of the nation's military reserve. Former officers also protested about its political tone, claiming they detected in it the hand of Labour's spin-doctors - the letter complains



Walker: "I shall not hesitate to use full powers" that breaches of confidence have embarrassed ministers and that press revelations were eroding trust between military chiefs and "our political masters". One TA insider said: "I have never seen that sort of overtly political word-

ing in a military document."

General Walker, who is in charge of cutting the TA's strength from 59,000 to 40,000 soldiers, says in his letter to commanders: "I want to make it quite plain that I regard any such leaks as very serious disciplinary offences. You are to ensure that those under your command, both regular and TA, understand the gravity with which I regard such betrayals of trust."

Queen's Regulations forbid the disclosure of "official business" and in a direct threat that offending officers and men face being dismissed from the service, the General adds: "I shall not hesitate to use the full powers of these rules if individuals fail to observe them."

He also orders his troops to avoid "deliberate contacts with the press or politicians" and in an echo of the wartime injunction against careless talk, he complains that many disclosures about possible targets of the cuts arise from gossip.

The General's letter is dated October 26 - the day that details of his blueprint for a slimmed-down TA were presented to General Sir Robin Wheeler, the Chief of the General Staff, and immediately leaked to the press. The general's letter is now itself the subject of a leak investigation by the Special Investigation Branch of the Royal Military Police.

According to leaks, which persist in spite of the General's letter, 180 TA bases are to be sold to raise £42 million. All the English TA county regiments will be merged into a few regional units. Royal and county names scrapped.

## Cash hope for family of Bentley

THE Home Secretary is considering using his discretion to compensate the family of Derek Bentley, whose conviction for murdering a policeman in 1952 was quashed earlier this year.

Jack Straw's announcement last night came after he met Bentley's niece and brother in private at the House of Commons.

Afterwards, he said: "I have enormous sympathy with them. The basis on which Derek Bentley's conviction was reversed means that the case is not eligible for the compensation scheme. I do have some discretion to make ex gratia payments in certain cases. I have agreed to consider this."

Bentley, 19, was executed for the murder of PC Sidney Miles in 1953. Christopher Craig, who fired the fatal shot was spared because he was too young to hang.

# Boycott stumped by French conviction

By Adrian Lee



Moore: delighted at court's decision to uphold ruling

THE reputation of Geoffrey Boycott was in ruins yesterday as a French court found him guilty, for the second time, of beating up his former girlfriend.

His immediate decision to appeal will bring his legal costs to almost £500,000 and he faces the loss of lucrative commentating work.

The former England and Yorkshire opening batsman, who denied striking Margaret Moore, said he was disappointed but not surprised. During

the case in Grasse, Provence, he clashed with court officials and described the process as a French farce. The judge, Dominique Haumont-Daumas, said his outbursts had "tarnished the image of the perfect gentleman" which he sought to portray.

Boycott, 58, was given a three-month suspended sentence, fined £5,300 and ordered to pay symbolic damages of £1 (10p) to Mrs Moore.

Speaking from Pakistan, where he is commentating, Boycott said: "When I went to

see *Fatal Attraction* I never thought it could happen to me."

By contrast, Mrs Moore was delighted. "The last two years have been completely devastating and upsetting. He beat me and attacked me and the French justice system has recognised that," she said.

The court had previously convicted Boycott in his absence and he flew in 13 witnesses for the appeal. He argued that Mrs Moore hit her face when she fell.



Boycott: outbursts did not endear him to judge

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### Dallaglio misses England opener

By David Handberg, Rugby Correspondent

ENGLAND will start this season without Lawrence Dallaglio, their captain. Dallaglio twisted his knee playing for Wasps at Northampton on Saturday and will miss the World Cup qualifying game against The Netherlands in Huddersfield on Saturday. Leaving Martin Johnson to lead the side for the first time.

Keen though Dallaglio is to resume his international career after the summer break it is not a decision that will have caused either him or Clive Woodward, his coach, much anguish. There are tougher tasks to come, against Italy in the second qualifying game, and then Australia and South Africa. Far better for Dallaglio to rest the injury a

### Quinnell set for Wales

the hope of playing against the Italians on November 22.

He leaves the team in capable hands: Johnson led the British Isles to victory against South Africa last year and has been in wonderful form in Leicester this season. Matt Cory, also of Leicester, has been added to the squad as a backline cover. Woodward will name his team to play The Netherlands on Thursday.

The training squad was whittled down to 22 yesterday, leaving Sale free to select the new number for their All-Ireland Premiership game with West Herts on Friday, while George Chuah of Bath, and the injured Danie Compton, of Richmond, can also return to their clubs.

Anthony Sullivan, Cardiff recruit from St Helier, has been named as the number one scrum-half, must preserve his club ropes on his first two games of club rugby. Sullivan was crucial for the Wales side in the South Africa test on Saturday.

ENGLAND SQUAD: Backs: 15 Ian Tait, 16 M Pery, 17 I Best, 18 J Luger, 19 S Brown, 20 G Jones, 21 M Davies, 22 J Wood, 23 J Gossop, 24 J Thompson, 25 M Day, 26 P Gwynne, 27 G Jones, 28 M Jones, 29 M Jones, 30 M Jones, 31 M Jones, 32 M Jones, 33 M Jones, 34 M Jones, 35 M Jones, 36 M Jones, 37 M Jones, 38 M Jones, 39 M Jones, 40 M Jones, 41 M Jones, 42 M Jones, 43 M Jones, 44 M Jones, 45 M Jones, 46 M Jones, 47 M Jones, 48 M Jones, 49 M Jones, 50 M Jones, 51 M Jones, 52 M Jones, 53 M Jones, 54 M Jones, 55 M Jones, 56 M Jones, 57 M Jones, 58 M Jones, 59 M Jones, 60 M Jones, 61 M Jones, 62 M Jones, 63 M Jones, 64 M Jones, 65 M Jones, 66 M Jones, 67 M Jones, 68 M Jones, 69 M Jones, 70 M Jones, 71 M Jones, 72 M Jones, 73 M Jones, 74 M Jones, 75 M Jones, 76 M Jones, 77 M Jones, 78 M Jones, 79 M Jones, 80 M Jones, 81 M Jones, 82 M Jones, 83 M Jones, 84 M Jones, 85 M Jones, 86 M Jones, 87 M Jones, 88 M Jones, 89 M Jones, 90 M Jones, 91 M Jones, 92 M Jones, 93 M Jones, 94 M Jones, 95 M Jones, 96 M Jones, 97 M Jones, 98 M Jones, 99 M Jones, 100 M Jones.

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# Redwood must boldly go where no alien has gone before

There is something admirable about John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary. Week in, week out, there he is at the Dispatch Box, hammering away. Sometimes poised, sometimes disjointed, sometimes on-target and sometimes off-beam, he sprays statistics, arguments and warnings of industrial Armageddon — kicking, undismayed, at the wall of confidence erected by a formidable administration and its publicity machine. New Labour appear to have

an army of advisers and publicists; Mr Redwood seems almost alone. Touring the broadcasting studios and Press Gallery offices with his tall and indefatigable lady assistant, Nicki, in tow (now, when are you going to write something nice about John?), the tireless Tory Vulcan and his loyal lieutenant remind us of an Alien space captain and his Earthling sidekick, on a mission to explain his extraterrestrial logic-system in this quirky corner of the galaxy. Yesterday, in an Opposition

debate on problems in industry, Redwood kept going on about "clusters". Asteroid clusters? Meteorite clusters? Captain Redwood had encountered clusters, he said, in the Thames Valley and the City of London. He was in favour of clusters but feared that under this Government they may be breaking up. He fears that under this Government everything may be breaking up. Accused of taking a gloomy view he protested "I'm not arguing today that all of British industry is going to close" — but left



POLITICAL SKETCH

us suspecting that he could well be arguing this tomorrow. Relaxed, self-confident, playful and controversial, Peter Mandelson, the winsome Trade and Industry Secretary, was having none of this. Indeed his backbench colleague, Helen Southworth (Warrington, S) told Redwood that he, not Mr Mandelson, was

the cause of falling investment and factory closures. She thinks the Tories have spread such alarm and despondency that confidence has collapsed. Mr Redwood looked chuffed at the thought that he and the Earthling lady might have done this single-handedly. Others looked doubtful. What leads us to guess that

the Southworth hypothesis has limited explanatory power? But then what does count as an explanation in new Labour's logic-system, a metaphysics at least as weird as anything Mr Redwood brings? This logic, too, is alien to human intelligence and may be traced to the Planet Vanilla, from which Tony Blair is being controlled. In Labour's version of the Universe, all time exists already: the past, the present and the future. Let me explain. At Health Questions earlier, Frank Dobson remarked: "I hope people will welcome the £25m extra for social services, which the Chancellor announced next week." The italics are mine. So, according to Mr Dobson, the announcement not only will be, it already is — and was. This may be the key to understanding why ministers keep announcing "initiatives" again and again, "revealing" the already-revealed, as though it were new. The metaphysics at which the answer hints make every announcement, whether already made

or in the future, exist already. If so, one can recall the future. "I'm prohibited from announcing my decisions," Dobson told the Tories' Shaun Woodward (Whitney), who was asking about the future of Oxfordshire hospitals, "until I've reached those decisions." The decision's already there, you see — ahead. It's just that Mr Dobson hasn't reached it yet. Truly, as our Leader, Tony, has said, "there's no going back from the road to the future."

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## 100 attacks on staff at offenders' centre

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

YOUNG children at Britain's first institution for child offenders have assaulted staff on almost a hundred occasions since it opened seven months ago. Twenty-six members of staff at the Medway Training Centre, run by Group 4, were referred for medical treatment after the assaults. In eleven cases criminal charges have been brought against the children at the centre at Rochester in Kent which holds offenders aged 12-14 at a cost of £2,400 a week each.



The secure training centre has 100 staff for 40 offenders

Rebound, the Group 4 subsidiary managing the centre, has also been "fined" £5,869 for failing to comply with the contract in the first three months of its operation. MFs were told last night. "The centre has also been hit by 14 incidents of concerted indiscipline involving more than two trainees, according to Commons written answers published yesterday. In three cases the incident has led to criminal charges against children. Two trainees broke through the perimeter fence of the centre but were pursued by staff and quickly returned to the premises. The answer does not reveal how far they had managed to escape before being recaptured. Thirty-five staff have left the centre, including two senior managers. One of them was Janice Richardson, the head of

education, who had been with Rebound for less than seven months. The latest details about what has occurred at the centre follows a disturbance in June which caused £5,300 of damage and the disclosure that only 30 per cent of the 100 staff had previous experience working with children. Last night Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, demanded an immediate investigation into the running for the child jail. He said: "The secure training centre is in danger of becoming a highly expensive failure. A catalogue of disturbing facts indicates that it is not working. There seems to be an atmosphere of violence which is incompatible with constructive work with young offenders." Mr Beith said he was

writing to Jack Straw calling for an inquiry. "I am not convinced there is a future for this experiment. Labour opposed these centres in opposition as 'colleges of crime'. It is time they looked to see if their prediction is accurate." A statement from Rebound said that the centre was dealing with the most difficult and disruptive young people in the country. "Given the background of the youngsters, it is not surprising that there have been some incidents of misbehaviour at the centre. Regrettably there have been some assaults on staff but the incidence of these has been much reduced recently." The statement said the assaults ranged from pushing and shoving to a broken nose. "None of the staff referred for medical treatment needed to go to hospital. It said it was

amending staff training to deal with the specific task of managing violent behaviour by youngsters. Rebound admitted that the staff turnover had been high and said it was currently increasing its management team at the centre. The centre's 100 staff look after a maximum of 40 children. It is the first of a planned network designed to hold young offenders aged 12-14 who have been given a secure training order.

The courts have imposed 85 orders since April for offences including affray, arson, dangerous driving, driving without a licence, possession of knives and violent disorder. Children given the order, lasting a minimum of six months and a maximum of two years, serve half their time in the centre and the other half in the community under supervision of social workers. The order can be imposed when a person has committed three previous imprisonable offences and broken a supervision order. Many of the children sent to the centre have long histories of criminal and antisocial behaviour, poor school records and truancy. Medway is currently full and has a waiting list. The Government has awarded two further contracts for secure training centres, one at Onley in Northamptonshire and one in Co Durham.

## Lords call to make cannabis legal for pain relief

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS should be permitted to prescribe cannabis for medical use, a House of Lords committee is to propose today. The peers will urge the Government to act swiftly to lift the ban, so that thousands of people can take the drug to alleviate pain.

Although the proposals from the Lords Science and Technology Committee will undoubtedly be supported by many sufferers, they are unlikely to secure the backing of Jack Straw, the Home Secretary. The Government is sensitive to the whole issue and any relaxation of the law is unlikely in the short term. Under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1985, cannabis is a Schedule One drug and all use is banned, except for licensed research. The Lords Science and Technology Committee recommends that it be reclassified as a "Schedule Two" drug. The committee admits that there is no conclusive proof that cannabis has medical value but says there is enough anecdotal evidence that it can be used to treat multiple sclerosis and particular types of pain. It says that trials should begin at once on cannabis as a treatment for MS and chronic pain and calls for research into ways of administering it other than smoking. George Howarth, a Home Office minister, rejected the recommendation and insisted that further clinical trials were needed. The Government would not be prepared to commission any move to allow prescription before clinical trials and safety tests had been completed," he said. The committee argues that the regulations should be relaxed immediately on compassionate grounds. The tests could last for some time and it could be years before any cannabis was available for use. Without it, 85,000 MS sufferers would continue to face the unpleasant symptoms of their disease without relief. The committee rejects



Cannabis plants being grown for licensed research

claims that allowing cannabis for medical purposes will lead to further legislation. The peers say that their changes would prevent sufferers risking prosecution and would help the police concentrate on people using the drug for illegal recreational uses. Lord Perry of Walton, the committee chairman and former professor of pharmacology, said: "We have seen enough evidence to convince us that a doctor might legitimately want to prescribe can-

nabis to relieve pain, or the symptoms of MS, and that the criminal law ought not to stand in the way. "Far from being a step towards general legalisation, our recommendation would make the ban on recreational use easier to enforce. Above all, it would show compassion to patients who currently risk prosecution to get help." The British Medical Association backed the committee's call for clinical trials but opposed rescheduling the drug.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Stone witness arrested

A key witness in the Michael Stone murder trial has been arrested after claiming in a newspaper article that he had lied. Kent police confirmed yesterday that Barry Thompson, arrested in Basildon, Essex, had been released on police bail. Thompson's evidence at the trial at Maidstone Crown Court, concerning a conversation with Stone in jail, helped to convict Stone of the murder of Lin Russell, 45, and her daughter, Megan, 6, and the attempted murder of Josie Russell, then 9, at Chillingden, Kent, in 1996. After Thompson's arrest, Kent police said that officers from Hampshire would investigate his claim.

#### Meale cleared

Alan Meale, the Junior Environment Minister, was yesterday cleared of breaching MPs' code of conduct. But Gordon Downey, the Commissioner for Standards, was unable to clear Mr Meale as a parliamentary private secretary, saying this could be done only by the Prime Minister. Mr Meale was criticised for lobbying for a £14 million sports complex. Downing Street said no further action would be taken.

#### Farmers seek aid

Farmers' leaders are to meet the Prime Minister today to seek emergency aid to counter the worst slump in agriculture for more than 30 years. Prices have plummeted in almost every agricultural sector. The National Farmers' Union will urge Tony Blair to take advantage of EU aid, worth up to £45 million to beef producers and £89 million to cereal producers, which is available to offset the strength of sterling.

#### Judges named

Six former senior judges are to become the first commissioners to monitor sensitive police investigations and authorise bugging. Sir Andrew Leggatt, the chief commissioner, will be aided in England and Wales by Sir Christopher Staughton, a retired Appeal Court judge, Sir Michael Hutchinson, an Appeal Court judge, and Sir Charles McCullough, a former senior judge of the Queen's Bench Division.

## Straw bans prison pay protest

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PRISON officers were yesterday forbidden to hold a nationwide pay protest, in the first court action this Government has taken against a trade union. The 23,000-strong Prison Officers' Association had planned branch meetings at all 135 jails in England and Wales at 7.30am today in protest at a 2.7 per cent pay offer. Jack Straw took legal action on advice from the Prison Service that the meetings would disrupt the unlocking of prisoners, delay court appearances and the start of workshops. The Home Secretary invoked a law introduced by his Conservative predecessor,

Michael Howard, and in the High Court Mr Justice Ferris granted an injunction banning the meetings. He said it was justified because of the damage that would be caused to the Prison Service. Mr Justice Ferris said the Home Office was entitled to the injunction at short notice because it had an arguable case that the meetings breached the 1994 Criminal Justice Act and Public Order Act barring the POA from taking industrial action. Mark Healy, chairman of the POA, accused the Government of using Conservative tactics to "sabotage" legitimate pay negotiations: "Sabotage is not too strong a word to use. We are appalled at the actions not only of the prison department but also of the Labour Government using

Tory anti-union laws which they are currently negotiating to repeal, to prevent us holding the meetings." He decided that the meetings had been planned to cause major disruption. He said they had been timed for when prisoners were still locked up. A Prison Service spokesman said it was not opposed to the POA holding meetings, but that it should be with the agreement of governors. "Governors have been offering alternative tries to branches so as to minimise disruption to the running of jails," the spokesman said. It is the first time the Prison Service has taken action at a national level to prevent the POA taking industrial action, and precedes a union conference tomorrow.

## Dublin puts out flags for Duke

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

UNION Flags flew from official buildings in Dublin yesterday to mark the arrival of the Duke of Edinburgh, the most senior member of the Royal Family to visit the Irish Republic since the country secured independence from Britain. Prince Philip, who was in Ireland on business related to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, met the Irish President and Prime Minister and toured many buildings once central to Britain's control. He arrived by RAF helicopter, landing in Aras an Uachtairin, the former vice-regal lodge now used as home to the president. Mary McAleese. The visit is being widely seen as a precursor to a visit by the Queen who joins Mrs McAleese in Flanders today to

unveil a memorial tower to the thousands of Irishmen who died in the First World War. The Duke and the President arrived in Dublin Castle to jointly launch a millennium project for young people in Northern Ireland and the Republic. Mrs McAleese said recently she was "anxious" that the Queen visit Ireland but sources said that it was unlikely to happen before the next millennium. The Queen was yesterday invited to attend millennium celebrations in Bethlehem, which is now under Palestinian control. The Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat used an historic trip to the West Bank by the Duke of Kent to issue the formal invitation. There is diplomatic speculation that the Pope will also attend.

## Pupils may sign school contracts

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

PUPILS aged as young as five will be asked to sign a contract with their school promising to behave, work hard and not to vandalise school buildings, the Government announced yesterday. Parents will also be asked to sign a pledge with the school, promising that they will ensure their child turns up for lessons, does his or her homework and that they will attend parents' evenings. The contracts, to be used in every school by September, are part of a Government plan to make parents and pupils aware of their role in raising education standards. In return schools will sign their part of the contract, which outlines the services they must provide for parents and pupils. This will include

keeping parents informed about their child's progress and keep the marking of homework up to date. Although schools will be legally obliged to offer the contracts from next September, parents and pupils will not be forced to sign them. Moreover, the contracts are not legally binding: any party who broke their promises would face little more than an angry letter or meeting. Charles Clarke, the Schools Minister, said that he did not think there would be many parents who would not want to sign the agreement. He said: "The vast majority of schools want this. I do not think parents in poor areas will not sign up to this and have no assumption that parents will not want to do it."

#### Mobile verdict

A biologist has lost his court battle to force the Government to put health warnings on mobile phones. Roger Coghill brought a test case private prosecution against the telephone shop where he bought two £130 phones. Magistrates at Abergavenny, Gwent, ruled that Mr Coghill had not proved that the phones failed to comply with safety requirements under the Consumer Protection Act.

#### Opera petition

The actor Simon Callow and other celebrities will join Covent Garden choristers and musicians presenting a petition to 10 Downing Street calling for the Government to support the performers of the Royal Opera House. More than 15,000 signatures have been collected in just under two weeks, from as far afield as Italy and Japan, including the conductor Riccardo Muti and the orchestra of La Scala.

# Survival of the littlest

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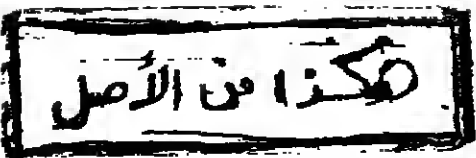
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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY

# Boycott that

Writer alerted



# Boycott and the temper that caught him out

### Cricket veteran found guilty again by a French judge unmoved by his outbursts, reports Ben Macintyre

THE French judge who found Geoffrey Boycott guilty of assaulting his former girlfriend was swayed by his bad-tempered court outbursts, she said yesterday. Dominique Haumont-Daumas said that the cricket veteran, who told the prosecution lawyer to "shut up" during the hearing last month, had not helped his case.



Moore and the judgment: "If I get a cheque, I'll frame it"

Boycott said that he was "hurt and disappointed" after the court in Grasse, near Nice, sentenced him to a three-month suspended prison term and a fine of 50,000 francs (£5,300) for assaulting Margaret Moore in a Riviera hotel two years ago. Ms Moore was also awarded a single French franc in symbolic damages.

The former England and Yorkshire player received precisely the same sentence when he was tried "in absentia" last January. He demanded a retrial and has since spent an estimated £250,000 trying to clear his name. Madame Haumont-Daumas, the president of the Grasse court, wrote in her judgment: "The accused did not hesitate to interrupt Ms Moore's barrister, thereby undermining the image of the perfect gentleman which so many of his old friends and witnesses had come to support."

During the long court hearing last month, Boycott was unable to control his temper. He complained bitterly that he had understood little of the court proceedings since these had been conducted in French. After the verdict, Boycott took a swipe at Madame Haumont-Daumas, whose elegance and irony could hardly have been more in contrast to the Yorkshireman's habitually blunt and aggressive manner.

Ms Moore was present in court to hear the verdict and appeared to be revelling in the second public humiliation of her former lover. "I don't think I will get my one franc, because he is a little tight-fisted," she said outside the courtroom. "If I get a cheque I'll frame it and if I don't I'll send a writ."

Boycott last night told the BBC: "I was disappointed, but after the way the court hearing was conducted, I'm not all together surprised. My evidence was good and witnesses had excellent first-hand knowledge of the type of injury that can be involved even by an accidental blow to the head."

He said that he had not been able to speak properly with his lawyers, but said an immediate appeal had been lodged. "I think when people say you must defend your name and you must go to court, even in another country, they don't know how difficult that is. You are on a hiding to nothing."

Boycott was yesterday in Pakistan commenting on Australia's tour for the independent production company Trans World International. It provides coverage of the major Pakistani, Indian and West Indian cricketing events to British broadcasters.

Boycott was dropped from the BBC radio commentary team covering the West Indies tour in January after the first court case. He returned to the commentary box in July for the Third Test against South Africa after he exercised his right to have the conviction set aside. Last night, the BBC said: "Geoffrey Boycott is not under contract with the BBC and there are no plans to use him in the future."



Dominique Haumont-Daumas arriving at the Palais de Justice in Grasse yesterday

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Stone witness arrested

A key witness in the Michael Stone murder trial has been arrested after claiming in a newspaper article that he had had sex with the victim's former girlfriend. Barry Thompson, arrested in Basildon, Essex, had been released on police bail.

Thompson's evidence at trial at Staines Crown Court, concerning a conversation with Stone in jail before he was tried for the murder of Lin Russell, 45, and her daughter, Megan, 6, and the attempted murder of Josie Bell, then 9, at Chilwell, Kent, in 1990.

After Thompson's arrest, Kent police said that officers from Hampshire would investigate his claim.

### Meale cleared

Alan Meale, the Junior League secretary, was yesterday cleared of breaching the law by handing out leaflets to the public. The Commission for Racial Equality was unable to prove that Mr Meale, a private secretary, had done anything to breach the law.

### Farmers seek aid

Farmers in Devon and Cornwall are seeking aid from the government to help them cope with the impact of the new Common Agricultural Policy rules.

### Judges named

The names of the judges who will preside over the trial of the men accused of the 1992 murder of a young girl in Devon have been announced.

### Mobile verdict

A court has ruled that a mobile phone company is liable for the costs of a mobile phone used by a driver who was involved in an accident while driving.

### Opera petition

A petition has been signed by opera lovers to urge the government to fund the restoration of the Royal Opera House in London.

# Briton taken hostage in mine raid 'used as pack animal'

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

A BRITON taken hostage by suspected UNITA guerrillas after a raid on a diamond mine in Angola was being used as a "pack animal" along with three colleagues to march looted goods deep into the bush. Twenty-one people, including two Britons, were killed in the raid.

DiamondWorks, the company for which Jason Pope, 26, from Devon, worked, said yesterday that it had been in radio contact with the hostages until Monday when the hostages were marched outside the range of security handsets they had taken with them. "What is puzzling is that they allowed their hostages to communicate with us for so long. This gives us some hope that they will be decently treated," the company said.

The Britons who died in the attack on Sunday were Alan Thomas, the director of the mine, and David Boutle, head of mining operations. Mr Boutle's father Chris, 50, said his son understood the risks of working there. David Boutle, 26, had given up his place at Oxford University where he was to read history to pursue his ambition to mine for diamonds in Africa. Chris Boutle of Bracknell, Berkshire, said: "He would not take suicidal risks but he had a spirit of adventure. He was very bright, extremely intelligent and determined. It is such a dreadful waste."

The other Briton killed in

the assault, Mr Thomas, 51, had worked in the diamond mining industry for 12 years. His son Mark said at the family home in Liversedge, West Yorkshire: "I don't think you would ever find a more principled, hardworking, honest person in your entire life. He was very strong willed."

Mr Thomas was aware of the dangers posed by working in Angola, his son said. "It was the nature of the job. Fighting has been going on in Angola for quite a long time." A fourth Briton, Robin Barton, 52, managed to escape unhurt and is now in Luanda. Bruce Walsham, chief executive of the Canadian mining company DiamondWorks, was flying out to the mine to meet senior government, military and local officials to try to secure the release of the hostages. A company spokesman said: "The company will take

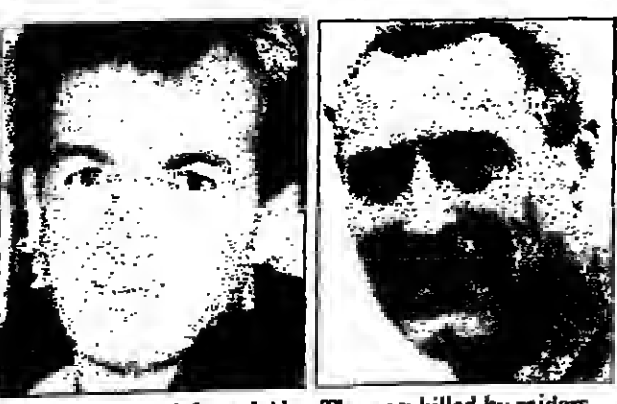
all necessary steps to ensure that the missing expatriate personnel are safely returned to their homes and families as quickly as possible." Mr Boutle got his job at the mine in June after graduating in 1996 with a first-class degree in mining engineering, and top student in his year, from the Camborne School of Mines in Cornwall. His father, a chief engineer for Marconi, said: "We last saw him on September 22 when he was in good spirits and looking forward to going back. We also spoke regularly on the phone." He said his son had been planning to go to the United States next year to study for a masters degree in business administration. The mother of hostage Jason Pope said last night that she believes he will be able to negotiate his release. Mr Pope

had just returned to Angola after a short holiday with his parents in Teignmouth, Devon. He had told them he believed the company's security arrangements would keep him safe.

His mother said: "He has always been a leader; a quiet leader though. He is not one of these terribly extrovert characters." "He said he felt there were good prospects for mining from the commercial point of view but there was a difficult political situation. His company was piggy-in-the-middle between the Government on one side and the UNITA rebels on the other. He said he had one or two occasions when he had been frightened but he did not go into detail." "He also thought the firm's security measures were the best in the area and were adequate."

"If anyone is going to come out of it alive it is him. He has the right emotional attitude and the right personality to come through a situation like this. I am fairly philosophical. I do not have any bad vibes that he is dead. I live in hope. It is a situation every mother dreads and you go through every scenario in your mind but it is his life and he has chosen it and he enjoys it."

Yesterday a senior aide to Jonas Savimbi, UNITA's leader, said that the guerrilla movement would "investigate" the attack on the mine.



David Boutle, left, and Alan Thomas: killed by raiders

# Writer alerted RSPCA to cruelty

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE novelist Jilly Cooper tipped off the RSPCA about cruelty at an animal sanctuary she supported after hearing rumours during a book signing. The writer was told of appalling conditions at the Tether's End sanctuary in Leeds, where she was the patron, as she visited a bookshop in the city. Her readers complained that a parrot thought to be 90 years old, dogs, monkeys, foxes and a cockatoo were being mistreated. RSPCA inspectors and police later raid-

ed the sanctuary and arrested its 82-year-old proprietor, Norma Clutterbuck. Yesterday, magistrates in Leeds imposed a life ban on her keeping any wild or exotic life animals and birds and all reptiles. She was also fined £1,000 and conditionally discharged for two years for each of four counts of causing unnecessary suffering to animals. The charges related to two marmoset monkeys and two foxes. Clutterbuck and her husband, George, 96, had run the sanctuary for 30 years when it was raided in July last year. Tony Kelbrick, for the prosecution, said investi-

gators had found 12 dogs in kennels in the living room, and in a darkened, 7ft square room four monkeys, a cockatoo, foxes and a parrot in small cages. The floor was covered with excrement and stale food. Gerald Lumley, for Clutterbuck, said: "The animals are like a family to her as she has no children. She spent 30 years of her life giving shelter and love to animals. I hope you respect she did try her best to look after the animals and spent a fortune of her own money on veterinary bills." She had worked as an RSPCA volunteer and had been an honorary secretary.

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# Millions expected to observe the two-minute silence

Supermarkets, banks, airports and factories will come to a standstill at 11am today, reports Richard Ford

MILLIONS of people will observe the two-minute Armistice silence today marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the first World War. Supermarkets, airports, railway stations, banks and factories will come to a halt at 11am. The courts, radio and television stations are among many organisations marking the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in tribute to British servicemen and women who died for their country. British Airways has rescheduled a Concorde flight so that it does not clash with the silence, and BA aircraft will push away from stands or start their engines from 10.58am to 11.02am. A spokesman

for the Royal British Legion estimated that three quarters of the country, about 43 million people, would observe the silence. It is the fourth year in which the Legion has campaigned for the silence on November 11 and it has won the backing of all three main political parties. Tony Blair said: "The Legion's campaign has been a magnificent success and reminds both young and old of the sacrifices that have been made in the past on behalf of our nation." Debate in the main chamber of the Commons will stop at the invitation of the Speaker, and

Commons committees and other offices will observe the silence. Meetings at 350 local councils will also be halted. Staff at all main line railway stations will observe the silence and passengers will be invited to join in the commemoration. London Transport said that staff and passengers would mark the silence at Underground stations and London buses would, if practical, pull over to the side of the road. The silence will also be observed at the Nissan car plant in Sunderland; at Toyota's plant in Burnaston, Derby-

shire, it will be left to employees whether to participate. One production line there will stop to allow workers to observe the silence. The Post Office has left the decision to individuals. "We leave it to the personal feelings of each employee. We make it quite clear that anyone who wishes to observe the silence is welcome to do so," a spokesman said. A ceremony of Remembrance will be held at the Post Office's head office in London to commemorate employees who gave their lives, including members of the

Post Office Rifles who served in the 1914-1918 war. Many firms will cease production for the two minutes, including British Aerospace, Cadbury Schweppes, National Power, PowerGen and Zeneca, the pharmaceutical company. The start and finish of the silence will be announced in stores including Tesco, Safeway, Sainsbury's, Asda, Marks & Spencer, John Lewis, McDonald's and Burger King. Work on the Millennium Dome will halt and the Legion urged construction workers across the coun-

try to suspend work. The Legion approached construction firms after complaints last year that building work spoiled the silence. Ian Townsend, secretary general of the Legion, said: "From 57 per cent observance when we launched our campaign in 1995 to the kind of response we saw last year shows that people from all walks of life all over the country have welcomed this simple form of remembrance. It introduces a poignant annual moment of reflection into their lives." Former prisoners of war yesterday called in the Govern-

ment to refund pay worth £15 million deducted while they were held in German and Italian camps during the Second World War. More than 6,000 surviving British officers and their widows claim that successive governments have failed to honour the financial obligations to those who suffered captivity. Their fight stems from a Geneva Convention agreement under which the country that held the soldiers captive was required to pay them. But while their home pay was docked, the camp pay they received was calculated on unrealistic rates of exchange.

Letters, page 21

## Shocked survivor rejects honour

Horrors seen by ambulance driver linger, reports Simon de Bruxelles

WINIFRED DEACON has never forgotten the horrors she witnessed as an ambulance driver on the Western Front in 1915. The experience affected her so deeply that this week the great-great-grandmother from Paington in Devon turned down the offer of France's highest award, the *Légion d'honneur*. Now 101, Mrs Deacon says she still cannot bear to celebrate anything to do with the War. Mrs Deacon and other surviving veterans who fought on French soil were granted the honour to mark the eightieth anniversary of the Armistice. Speaking yesterday at the retirement home where she now lives, she said: "I want nothing to do with war whatsoever, I don't want this blessed medal, I don't want anything to do with it. "If they came in to my room right now holding the *Légion d'honneur* I would tell them to

get out and to take it with them. My remembrance was seeing young boys after one of the retreats from the Somme — the shell-shocked, the gassed, the blind and men old enough to be my father — crying, waiting for the ambulance drivers to take them down the line. All I could do was hold their hands as they were dying." She was nicknamed Tiny when she was posted to serve in France with the Army Service Corps in 1915 at the age of 17. Despite standing just 4ft 9in, she drove a two-tonne Alblon ambulance as well as a Ford staff car. She met her future husband, who was then serving with intelligence, when she was assigned to drive him around. She vividly recalls the awful sights that greeted her on the Western Front: "I had never seen a dead body in my life. Then I saw them in hundreds laid out in fields. "I can't tell people the



Winifred Deacon, pictured right aged 18, saw too much suffering on the Western Front to accept French honour

stench there was. There was nothing much to be buried in some of the war graves." Mrs Deacon twice suffered heavy shelling and on the second occasion was buried for six hours before being rescued. Her hearing was permanently damaged by the experience. But it was the suffering she saw around her that hurt most. She said: "It is impossible to make anyone realise the mental and physical ordeal those men and boys went through, not just for hours but years, while the men who made the profits from the industry of arms, weapons, tanks, guns and gas never went near one bullet. "I saw a lot of shell-shocked soldiers. They were broken men. I was driving a captain

once when he had an attack and shook uncontrollably. I stopped at a hospital to get him a mug of tea and lots of brandy. "I threw my three medals from the Great War into the dustbin when the Second World War started." Women were called on for the first time in war because every available able-bodied man was needed to fight. Thousands volunteered to serve as ambulance drivers ferrying the wounded from frontline casualty clearing stations to makeshift hospitals. The massive number of casualties and the confusion of war meant little concession could be made for them. Mrs Deacon said: "We lived as the men did, putting



Winifred Deacon, pictured right aged 18, saw too much suffering on the Western Front to accept French honour

up with bombing, rats and lice. It was difficult to keep warm with no heat, two blankets and the overcoats. "Our billet was just a hut with corrugated iron andessian nailed on wooden struts. Rats gnawed holes in it in search of food. "We were up at 6.30am to get ready and rarely came back before eight-time. I went anywhere and everywhere: Etampes, Calais, Dieppe, Rouen and Ypres. Where the officers had to go I had to find a way." Laurent Lemarchand, a spokesman for the French Embassy, said that about 160 veterans who had fought on French soil had been awarded the rank *Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur*, with another

75 under consideration. He said: "The intention is to honour the survivors of the First World War, to celebrate in a dignified way the eightieth anniversary of the Armistice and to make sure, with the century coming to a close, that the memory of these great fighters is not lost to the oncoming generations. "It is a duty of gratitude and a duty of memory, both to the people who have survived and those who have not. "It is an important concern in France, as it is in Britain, that things are not lost as time passes." He said he was not aware of anyone else turning down the honour as Mrs Deacon has done, but added: "It is her own privilege to decline."

## Lost Sassoon war poem is found in letter

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

### TESTAMENT

A PREVIOUSLY unpublished war poem by Siegfried Sassoon has emerged among a collection of letters in an American university archive. It was unearthed by Patrick Campbell, a lecturer in English and performing arts at Middlesex University, while researching a critical study of Sassoon's poetry. The rediscovered poem is entitled *Testament* which, Dr Campbell said, was not to be confused with *A Testament* of 1916, "a nostalgic evocation of the English landscape, written before Sassoon had seen much frontline action". *Testament* was composed during the later stages of the war. News of the find comes days after another unknown poem by Sassoon, *To a Citizen-Soldier*, 1916, was found by Jean Moorcroft Wilson, his biographer, at Cambridge University library, at Cambridge University.

For the last time I say — War is not glorious Though lads march out, superb and full vic, torious — Scrapping like demons, suffering like slaves. And crowned by peace, the sunlight on their graves. You swear we crush the Beast; I say we fight! Beast: men lost their landmarks in the night. And met in gloom to grapple, stab and kill Yelling their fetich- names of Good and Ill That have been shamed in history. O my heart, Be still; you have cried your cry; you have played your part.

Dr Campbell's discovery was attached to a letter, dated May 9, 1918, to Lady Ottoline Morrell, a friend with whom Sassoon corresponded regularly during the conflict. The lecturer explained: "Now on his way back to the front for what would be the last time — an accidental bullet from one of his own men ended his involvement two months later — Sassoon disparaged the behaviour of his fellow-subalterns on the troop ship where the atmosphere of cocktails and

card-playing in the officer's saloons was beyond words. Nonetheless, in sentiments that echo those of the poem, he had exonerated the troops, adding: "But the men are more impressive than ever." He acknowledges that the poem is "not worthy of Sassoon at his best; that Sassoon did not wish to publish a run-of-the-mill poem is hardly a matter for surprise." It is part of a collection in the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin.

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# X-rays reveal the true mark of a master

Rediscovered work by Velázquez is causing a stir, reports **Dalya Alberge**

A PAINTING long thought to have been by the 17th-century Spanish artist Murillo has been reattributed to his teacher, Velázquez, after X-rays revealed his distinctive palette knife markings.

Studies of the *Saint Rufina* also uncovered stylistic links to the *Sibyl* in the Prado, Madrid. The news has caused a stir among historians. Although Murillo (1617-82) is a revered Old Master, his virtuosity is eclipsed by Velázquez (1599-1660).

The record price paid for a Murillo, set by Christie's in 1990, stands at £2 million. The last time a great Velázquez came on to the market was in 1970, again at Christie's, when it fetched £2.31 million, breaking the world record.

Anthony Crichton-Stuart, the British-born head of Old Master pictures of Christie's in New York, said: "Velázquez is not only the most important painter of the Golden Age of painting in Spain, he ranks as one of the greatest and most influential Western artists of all time. *Saint Rufina* is an exceptional example of his work."

The painting was first recorded in the inventory of Velázquez's first and principal patron, Don Luis de Haro, Marqués de Elche, 6th Marqués del Carpio, in 1643 he succeeded his uncle as Prince Minister to King Philip IV of Spain, whose favourite court painter was Velázquez.



Old Masters: Velázquez and his pupil, Murillo

The inventory described the work as "a painting of St Rufina, half-length, with a palm and some cups in her hands, original by Diego Velázquez, three-quarters and a half in height and two-thirds and two fingers in width."

Explaining why the size is only "more or less comparable", Mr Crichton-Stuart said that depended on how fat one's fingers were.

The painting had disappeared until 1868, when it resurfaced in the collection of the Earl of Dudley as the work of Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, the leading painter in Seville after Velázquez left for Madrid in 1623.

Murillo was once compared to Titian, Raphael and Van Dyck, and his fame in the 18th and 19th centuries was enormous. In 1925 the 3rd Earl sold the painting at Christie's and

instigated a thorough technical examination of the painting, thereby confirming the attribution and establishing a date for the work between 1632 and 1634.

He spoke of how it was stylistically close to Velázquez's 1630 work, *Sibyl*, in the Prado, Madrid: "In both paintings the subject is set against a neutral, light coloured ground."

Chirping evidence was found in the X-ray, which clearly shows the marks left by his palette knife. "It shows a preparatory ground layer that is very particular to Velázquez."

Also the materials are typical of those used by Velázquez.

The composition depicts one of the patron saints and protectors of Seville. With her sister Saint Justa, Saint Rufina was martyred in 287AD after being tortured and killed by the Roman governor for refusing to give offerings to a statue of Venus. The work will be exhibited at Christie's London on December 9, before the auction in New York on January 29.



The *Saint Rufina* was long thought to have been by the Spanish artist Murillo

## Arts and education share £7m donation

MORE than £7 million is to be shared by arts and educational projects from awards made by the Jerwood Foundation (Dalya Alberge writes).

Among schemes are a Jerwood Gallery at the Natural History Museum to allow regular displays from its collection of half a million drawings, paintings and prints.

Jerwood funds will also create a sculpture park at Witley Court, the magnificent ruined Victorian mansion near Worcester managed by English Heritage — among them new works commissioned from young artists.

As the foundation is now making capital grants, it announced that it will repay the Arts Council the £1.4 million lottery award allocated to the Jerwood Space for its development as a public arts venue.

The foundation, established in 1977, commemorates John Michael Jerwood, who died in 1991. He established one of the largest dealerships in cultured pearls. During his lifetime he made extensive donations within the fields of music and education.

## Censor's regret over Travolta drug scene

BY CAROL MIDGLEY  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S outgoing film censor yesterday criticised *Pulp Fiction* for glamorising drug-taking and said that, in hindsight, he believed that it might have been better to cut it.

James Ferman, who retires as director of the British Board of Classification in December, said the Quentin Tarantino film was "practically an advertisement" for heroin.

He told the Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence that Tarantino, who claimed he wanted to do the "best shooting up scene in the world", had been socially irresponsible. But he said they could not cut a scene which shows John Travolta injecting the drug because it was "part of the rhythm" of the film.

Mr Ferman added: "We didn't cut the film and I don't know, looking back, whether that was a good idea. I still wonder whether injection has increased since this film was out, because it was going to increase the glamour of injection considerably."

He also worried about *Trainspotting*, which he said gave a "very mixed message" about heroin.

## Simon the Signer will help deaf 'hear' TV

BY OUR MEDIA  
CORRESPONDENT

A VIRTUAL reality figure called Simon could be about to revolutionise television for the deaf.

The 3-D character will stand permanently in the corner of the screen translating words into sign language. The technology, developed by the University of East Anglia in Norwich, could eventually replace subtitles.

Simon the Signer is the result of a joint project between the university, the Independent Television Commission and a local graphics firm, Tevirtual. Scientists hope to have the technology to put the software for Simon in a box which deaf people can buy and put on their television sets by next year.

Professor Andrew Bangham of the university's School of Information Systems, said: "Subtitles can be difficult for a lot of deaf people who do not read smoothly. When signing is their first language it is a lot easier to understand than the written word. This system can convert subtitles straight into sign language without TV companies having to get a real signing expert to do it."



THE TIMES  
Power  
Army  
defeat

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### Arts and education share £7m donation

MORE than £7 million is to be shared by arts and education at projects from awards made by the Jerwood Foundation (Daisy Alberg writes).

Among schemes are a new wood gallery at the National History Museum to allow the display of half a million drawings, paintings and prints.

Jerwood funds will also go to a sculpture park at White Court, the magnificent 19th-century Victorian mansion now managed by the British Heritage Trust, and to new works for young artists.

As the foundation is making capital grants, it is noticed that it will repay the Arts Council the £1.5 million lottery award allocated to the Jerwood Space for its development as a public arts venue.

The foundation, established in 1977, commemorates Sir Michael Jerwood, who died in 1991. He established one of the largest dealerships in the world. During his lifetime he made extensive donations within the fields of music and education.

# Powell shows Army how to defeat racism

By HELEN RUMBLOW

COLIN POWELL, the highest-ranking black officer in America, told the British Armed Forces yesterday to punish officers for any racism among their troops.

To assist in their self-declared "war on racism", the Army flew in the former head of the American military to teach them how to be less prejudiced against people for their race or gender.

General Powell received an enthusiastic standing ovation from more than 100 top-ranking British commanders at the first conference to address equal opportunities in the Armed Services.

He told them the lessons they should learn from his own struggle to progress from his beginnings as a poor child from the Bronx. His eyes brimmed with tears as he recalled leading the Desert



Powell: Gulf War troops were seen as one family

your goal but commanders and leaders who will take it on as their central mission and be ready to stick to it as a campaign.

"British officers should embark on this crusade for one reason, a simple reason, that it is in the best interests of Her Majesty's Armed Forces. Not as a favour but to produce an even more brave band of warriors. In this I wish them the best of luck."

Immediately afterwards Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, and George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, vowed to implement some of the American innovations, in particular making promotion of officers dependent on the wellbeing of the minority groups under their command.

"You can't blame everything on the boss," General Guthrie said to discreet applause, "but most things. As you know our



The Household Cavalry mounted a recruitment drive in Brixton, South London, yesterday. General Powell remarked that the US had never had a problem recruiting troops from ethnic minorities and said a decision to allow British servicemen to wear uniform in public life should help

Storm operation in the Gulf War with forces who considered each other "family", whether black, white, male or female. That was possible because he had made it the job of leaders to be "vicious against the expression of racism".

"It is not policies or programmes that will get you to

track record has not, over the years, been good," he said. Ethnic minorities at present form 1 per cent of the Armed Forces.

"I believe we have made significant progress in the last year or so," the general said. "We have not been complacent, nor have we been arrogant. In short, we are fighting a war on racism."

Mr Robertson said that they

were ready to take on the more radical advice from General Powell. "We brought him here to learn from him. His recommendations to make officers responsible for racism in the ranks seem perfectly in line with what we have already been doing."

"His picture of the systematic way it has been done with clear leadership from the top

is what we intend and we hope we get his results."

General Powell said that as an 11-year-old boy in the Bronx in 1948 he had been told by society that he had "no need of ambitions or rights" and was told how black people were kept to the back of everything: "buses, movies or restaurants". However, that year American forces were desegre-

gated. "That 11-year-old boy didn't know Truman had signed an order that would make his dream come true."

The American experience was opposite to Britain in one respect, he said, in that it had never had a lack of applications from the black community. In this respect he applauded the decision this month to allow British servicemen to wear their uniform in public life. "We also took this decision after the Vietnam War and it was a major step in building pride and bonding and had a lot to do with our success in recruitment in the 1980s."

He said Britain should consider several American policies to try to improve on its poor equal opportunities per-

formance. It could give female and black officers mentors to compensate for the "buddy system" often available to whites, give quotas for black admissions to military colleges and ask promotion boards to be more lenient on young black officers because of racism they may have experienced in their career.

"It was a judgment I made that this was an appropriate thing to do: it has worked."

Afterwards British servicemen and women present said they were impressed by General Powell's performance. "His speech was so powerful, it gives you a buzz just to go out in uniform," Lieutenant Deborah Williams, an equal opportunities adviser in the Royal Navy, said.

## Diana fund will not give cash for mines clearance

By A CORRESPONDENT

LANDMINE clearance organisations will receive no cash from the charity set up to commemorate Diana, Princess of Wales, it emerged yesterday.

The Princess of Wales Memorial Fund has confirmed that £1 million set aside for the landmine cause in March this year will go towards aid for victims rather than the disposal of the weapons.

The decision to devote the money to humanitarian aid was taken after a panel of experts assembled by the fund, which has raised £85 million since the Princess's death, concluded that clearance was too expensive to support.

A fund spokeswoman said: "It was decided that to give the £1 million to landmine clearance would be a drop in the ocean and the money available would be most appropriate-

ly used by helping those damaged by these weapons."

Britain's biggest mine clearance charity immediately attacked the decision as "short-sighted". The Mines Advisory Group, which recently delayed the launch of a programme in Bosnia because of a cash shortage, said it was being penalised because of an assumption it was receiving money from the memorial fund.

Lou McGrath, MAG director, said that because the Princess was involved in mine clearing, "people expect we are receiving plentiful donations from the fund. But, as we have heard today, the opposite is the case and we face the ludicrous situation of the Diana Memorial Fund doing nothing to help a cause to which she gave a very clear and very important commitment."

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Martina Anderson and Ella O'Dwyer are greeted on their release: more than 200 terrorists have now been freed

## 200th release sparks arms anger

By MARTIN FLETCHER

TWO IRA women terrorists were freed yesterday, bringing the number of prisoners released under the Good Friday Agreement to more than 200 without any arms or explosives decommissioned.

The releases brought protests from Conservatives and Unionists, who demanded that the Government halt the programme until disarmament began. Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness said that the IRA would not offer even a token decommissioning. Asked why, he said: "The IRA won't do it. That's the reason."

Andrew Mackay, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, called the situation "dangerous and outrageous". He said

Tony Blair should end prisoner releases until there was substantial and verifiable decommissioning. Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist Party's security spokesman, said it was "time for the Prime Minister to honour his written commitment to David Trimble to review the political process after six months if it was not working". If Sinn Fein insisted on maintaining its "Armalite and ballot box strategy" it should be excluded.

Ian Paisley Jr, justice spokesman of the anti-agreement Democratic Unionist Party, said the releases were a scandal. "We said the terrorists will take, take, take and give nothing in return, and Tony Blair has fallen headlong into their trap." Sinn Fein welcomed the 200th re-

lease, saying the Sentence Review Commission was beginning to do its job after a "stuttering start". It claims the Unionists are reneging on the agreement by refusing to establish a power-sharing executive until the IRA begins disarming.

The two prisoners released from Northern Ireland's Maghaberry prison were Martina Anderson and Ella O'Dwyer, both jailed for life for conspiring to plant 16 bombs in London and various English seaside resorts in 1985. In 1989 Anderson, a former Londonderry beauty queen married Paul Kavanagh, another IRA prisoner who bombed Harrods, the Chelsea barracks and the Wimpy bar in Oxford Street, London, in a campaign that killed nine people.

# 'Unsafe' Maze prison to be closed by 2000

THE Government tried to draw the sting from a shocking report on Northern Ireland's Maze prison last night by announcing its intention to close the top-security terrorist jail by late 2000.

The report painted an astonishing picture of a prison where the inmates ruled, the prison officers lived in a state of fear and humiliation and basic rules were inoperable. The Maze was "not safe for prisoners or staff". Sir David Ramsbotham, Chief Inspector of Prisons in England and Wales, concluded:

He acknowledged that a prison with up to 500 highly organised paramilitary inmates faced unique problems but said that letting prisoners regulate themselves was no way to run any institution. The real victims were the "battle-weary and traumatised" prison officers who would require psychological as well as financial support when the Maze did finally close.

Robin Halward, the new head of Northern Ireland's prison service, admitted the Maze had had a "chequered history and more than its fair share of problems" but said the release of terrorist prisoners under the Good Friday accord offered an "opportunity to close that page of history". The 200th inmate was freed yesterday, just under 300 remain and three of the eight H blocks had been closed.

"I hope that it will be razed to the ground as quickly as possible after it is finally emptied and confined to history," Sir David said. The report acknowledged that it was too late to reimpose normal prison rules in the Maze but said written protocols should be agreed with each paramilitary group and sanctions imposed for violations. That way a measure of control could be restored to the governor and his staff. The report explained how the prisoners had won the right to self-regulation through years of attrition, and listed a string of appalling consequences. Inmates were able to have intimate physical relations with wives and girlfriends in unattended visit rooms. They routinely claimed compensation for damage to their property and that was paid without

## Inspector's scathing report says the lax regime endangers officers and inmates. Martin Fletcher reports

question. They regularly demanded and received extra meals, clothes and furniture. When Loyalist Volunteer Force prisoners were moved from their wing after murdering a colleague they refused to go until supplied with designer sports clothes that cost the taxpayer £4,800 and a free supply of tobacco.

Prison officers were intimidated and their families threatened. In the course of the Troubles 29 officers were killed, mostly outside the prison. They were "worn down by the daily incessant demands, complaints and threats from people whom the courts had imprisoned for committing terrible crimes". They eventually sought to "avoid any situation that would bring conflict". Prisoners engineered the removal

of those who resisted by telling management that "their safety could not be guaranteed".

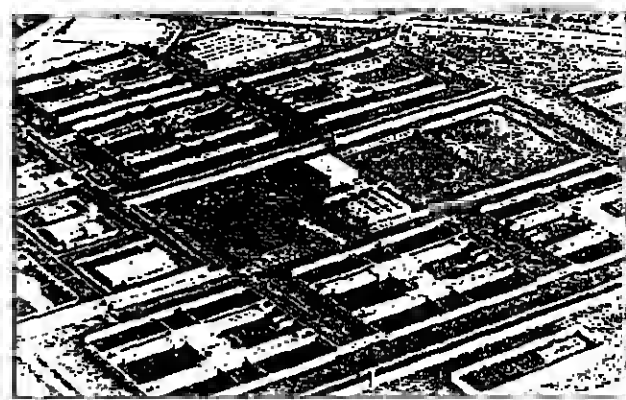
The guards could not enter the H blocks without permission, conduct headcounts or perform proper searches. They were effectively ordered about by the inmates. They had no pride in their job and dreaded periods of calm for fear of what was being hatched.

Sir David generally avoided "the blame game" but at one point declared: "I would have expected that someone would have had the wit to realise what such continual exposure to stress entailed and have made arrangements for them to be relieved for periods." He recommended a special service medal for officers who had served during the Troubles.

One source told Sir David the Maze was a "dying prison" with neither staff nor prisoners knowing where the boundaries of acceptable behaviour lay". He called that an "apt description".

## From internment cage to 'holiday camp'

By MARTIN FLETCHER  
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT



A view of the Maze in 1983, showing the H blocks

THE Maze began life in 1971 as a series of makeshift prison huts or "hedges" to house prisoners on an old Second World War airfield 10 miles south of Belfast. It was known as Long Kesh, or the "Lazy K", and republicans still call it "the Kesh".

The internees, who included Gerry Adams, organised themselves along paramilitary lines. They enjoyed "special category" status to distinguish them from regular criminals but that status ended with internment in 1975 and its abolition paved the way for the "blanket" and "dirty" protests.

The internees had burnt down the Maze in 1974. In 1976 the eight present-day H blocks opened. IRA prisoners refused to wear prison uniform and began wrapping themselves in blankets. In 1978, when 300 "blanket men" were harassed while stopping out, they stopped washing and began smearing their excrement across their cell walls.

The "dirty protest" was succeeded by the 1981 hunger strike. Bobby Sands and nine other republicans demanding political status starved themselves to death. That changed

the course of the conflict. Sands was elected with 30,000 votes in a Fermanagh by-election shortly before he died. Two other strikers were elected to the Irish parliament. The republican movement realised its political potential and gradually turned from armed to unarmed struggle.

The strike also won the prisoners de facto political status. They were allowed their own clothes and excused prison work. In 1983 — the year 38 IRA prisoners escaped by hijacking a food lorry — loyalist and republican prisoners were segregated. Over the following decade the regime became increasingly liberal as the authorities reasoned that a pris-

on housing 500 terrorist prisoners could be run only with their co-operation.

By the time of last April's Good Friday accord, the Maze was widely portrayed as a holiday camp. The authorities secured the perimeter. The inmates ran their own wings and guards entered only with their permission.

That liberalisation enabled IRA inmates to dig a 40ft tunnel before they were discovered in 1997. INLA inmates to murder the loyalist terrorist Billy Wright and Liam Averill to escape in women's clothes after a Christmas party. It led to today's damning report by Sir David Ramsbotham, Chief Inspector of Prisons.

## Clegg retrial told soldiers tried to save shot woman

SOLDIERS who were on patrol with Lee Clegg on the night he is accused of murdering a Belfast joyrider yesterday told a court of the frantic attempts they made to save the teenager.

The paratroopers described how they bandaged 18-year-old Karen Reilly's wounds and gave her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. They were giving evidence at Belfast Crown Court on the second day of Corporal Clegg's retrial for murder.

Sergeant Stephen Gilbert told the court that Miss Reilly, who was shot in the back in West Belfast in September 1990, was still breathing when she was taken out of the car. "She was obviously unconscious and bleeding heavily," Sergeant Gilbert, a corporal at the time of the shooting, said. Miss Reilly's father, Sean,



Karen Reilly: shot in back

sat in the back of the court, at times with his head in his hands, as his daughter's last moments were described. Corporal Dean Clifton, then a lance-corporal, said he found the driver of the car, Martin Peake, 17, dead. Corporal Clegg, 30, was con-

victed in 1993 of murdering Miss Reilly and sentenced to life. He had opened fire on the car with other members of his patrol after they formed a road block on the Glen Road to stop joyriders. It was never established who fired the bullet that killed Martin Peake.

The soldier was freed on licence in 1995 and went on to win the chance to clear his name in February when the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal quashed his conviction and ordered a retrial.

Corporal Clegg, who was a private at the time of the alleged offence, faces a new mandatory life sentence if he is found guilty a second time at the current hearing, which is expected to last six weeks. However legal sources say that it is highly unlikely he would be returned to jail. The case continues.

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# Sparks flying over top job at Marks

## Patience Wheatcroft analyses the crisis crippling a British institution

MARKS and Spencer directors will today try to reassure shareholders that blood is not streaming down the corridors of head office in London. But fears that war has broken out in Baker Street will not be easily quelled.

The simmering question over the future leadership of the organisation has erupted into the public arena, with Sir Richard Greenbury, the chairman, under mounting pressure to step aside and his deputy, Keith Oates, apparently making a play for his job.

The mighty M&S now appears to be a company in crisis, its profits falling and its top management in turmoil. In the City there is amazement that the vital question of who should lead the business has been allowed to degenerate into such potentially damaging confusion. Investors are beginning to worry that the debate will inevitably distract attention from the fight that Marks should be staging to cope with evaporating sales, both at home and abroad.

The pressure is now on the six non-executive directors to act swiftly and put a stop to the squabbling. In theory they are a formidable bunch, with decades of experience in some of the country's major corporations, and the very special expertise of a former spymaster, Dame Stella Rimington.

In practice, there are doubts as to whether even they are a match for the bull-like determi-



The City feels M&S should be fighting falling sales

nation of the redoubtable Sir Richard, who does not want to be moved from his post. The non-executives suggested to him once before that he might relinquish some of his power but he ended up brandishing a bit of paper that assured the world they had asked him to stay until he is 65 (he is 62). But the revelation that Mr Oates has been pushing for change leaves the non-executives with no option but to confront the issue.

This week, Sir Richard cut short a trip to India to fly home and defend his position. Ministers in Baker Street were cowering at the prospect of his fury on finding that his dominance was being challenged: he always denies a tendency to bully but does so with such vigour that it merely underlines the charge.

When he ventured into out-

side territory, to chair a CBI committee on corporate governance in 1995, he was said to be incapable of coping with the arguments. He bitterly regretted having got involved and, when he appeared before a House of Commons committee wearing an apron that proclaimed "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen", some thought the strain had proved too much.

Now, it seems, Keith Oates is prepared to risk his future career at M&S and make a stand against Sir Richard's continuing dominance. He is

said to feel that he has little to lose by declaring his ambitions to take over the reins. He is already a wealthy man, with seven times as many M&S shares as his boss.

He does not need the job for the extra salary — he was paid £266,000 last year, although Sir Richard collected more than £800,000 — but, now in his mid fifties, he knows that he cannot wait much longer for a top executive role. If it is not going to be at M&S, then he might look elsewhere: he is already a non-executive director of BT and Diageo.

The unanimity with which the Sunday papers reported Mr Oates's offer of his services shocked M&S insiders, used to their company's public pronouncements being made through the carefully vetted Baker Street channels. Mr Oates denies putting his own spin doctors to work in advancing his cause but, whether professional or amateur, the effect was devastating.

He was not the favoured candidate for preference. As Sir Richard has hung on, long past his original retirement date, the managing directors have been jockeying for posi-



tion. Andrew Stone, Lord Stone of Blackheath, eventually decided to bow out, opting to accept a working peerage and combine running the M&S food business with the House of Lords. Increasingly the mumbblings have singled out Peter Salisbury as the next man to head the company. But, despite his thorough grounding in the business, the non-executives are not convinced that Mr Salisbury is the face of the future. Some of them feel that Sir Richard's dominance has left the company with a dearth of talent to fill the gap and run a company with sales of £8 billion and operations throughout the world. Sir Richard, however, is almost certainly going to have to give up half his job at the very least. He will have to get used to the idea of power-sharing if he is to stay on at M&S into the next century, as he wishes. The non-executives are going to have to opt for someone to work alongside him and hope he grows into the job.

## GP sent for trial on death of patient

By Russell Jenkins

A DOCTOR was sent for trial yesterday on a charge of murdering an elderly patient, only hours after police exhumed a seventh body as part of their continuing investigation.

Harold Shipman, 52, who runs a one-man general practice in Hyde, Tameside, was committed to appear before a judge at Manchester Crown Court on December 8 by magistrates in Ashton-under-Lyne.

The GP is charged with murdering Kathleen Grundy, 81, in June this year, and with two charges of forging her will, making him the sole beneficiary of her £300,000 estate, and two charges of forging letters.

Dr Shipman, wearing a pull-over and open-necked shirt, spoke only briefly during the 12-minute hearing.

His wife Primrose, 51, sat in the public gallery of Tameside Magistrates' Court alongside family and friends. Mrs Grundy's daughter, Angela Woodruff, was also in court to listen to the proceedings.

Roy Mellor, chairman of the magistrates' panel, ordered Dr Shipman to appear before the court on December 7 for committal proceedings to take place on three further murder charges.

He has been charged with murdering Winifred Mellor, 73, in May, German-born Bionka Pomfret, 49, in December last year and Joan Melia, also 73, in June this year.

Dr Shipman, who is being held on remand, said "no" when he was asked to indicate whether he would be pleading guilty to the forgery charges. The hearing came hours after the remains of Irene Turner, 67, one of Dr Shipman's patients, who died two years ago, were dug up at Hyde cemetery in the presence of a priest. It was the seventh exhumation as police investigate the circumstances surrounding the deaths of up to 116 patients.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Boy dies of bonfire burns

A boy aged 11 who suffered 95 per cent burns in a Bonfire Night explosion has died. Alan Spiers, of Law, Lanarkshire, was injured when a 45-gallon drum, which was thought to have contained diesel, blew up at an unsupervised bonfire. His parents, Anne and Lindsay, were with him when he died at Yorkhill Hospital, Glasgow.

## Visa denied

Australia has turned down a visa request by the former secret service agent Richard Tomlinson, jailed last year for breaching the Official Secrets Act by sending an e-mail to a Sydney publisher.

## Bishops move

The Queen has approved the nomination of the Right Rev Timothy Stevens, Suffragan Bishop of Dunwich, as Bishop of Leicester. He will succeed the Right Rev Thomas Butler.

## Cyber siblings

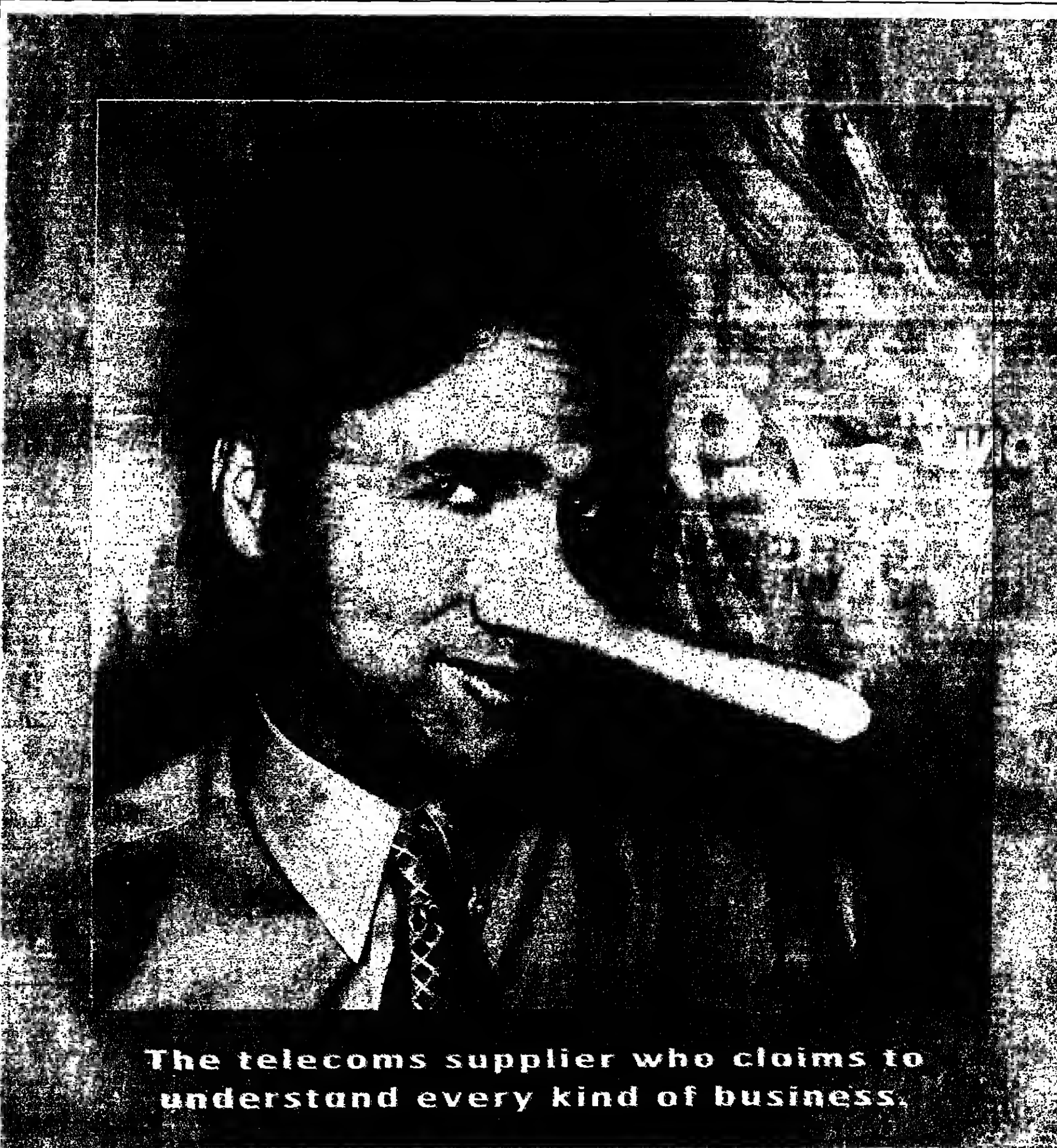
After 50 years of searching for his brother and two sisters, a man has found them in five minutes — on the Internet. Richard Sterras, 71, of Hereford, was helped by his grandson using his home computer.

## Priests bailed

Two Roman Catholic priests accused of sexually abusing a boy of 15 may be retried after a jury failed to reach verdicts. Anthony Smithwick, 41, and Philip Temple, 48, who deny the charges, were bailed.

## Toad haul

A first edition of *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame sold for £44,400 at Sotheby's in London. It had belonged to the late Edward Byles, a reclusive book collector from Ashorne, Warwickshire.



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# Hague rebukes Portillo in clash over euro policy

WILLIAM HAGUE moved to bring Michael Portillo into line over the single currency yesterday after claims that the former Defence Secretary was after his job.

The Tory leader telephoned Mr Portillo to rebut his criticism that the party was falling to take a sufficiently robust line in defending the pound. Mr Portillo's apparent attack provoked Michael Heseltine, the former Deputy Prime Minister, to suggest that he would run for the leadership after returning to Parliament.

Mr Hague pointed out that the Conservatives had a clear stance on the euro which had been backed by a ballot of members. And in what seems to have been a pointed rebuke, he told Mr Portillo that all Conservatives should be concentrating on attacking the "shambles" of the Government's policy on the single currency.

A source close to Mr Hague said: "We are giving a lead on the single currency. It is for others to follow and support that lead." Mr Hague's action in calling Mr Portillo prompted the former minister, who lost his seat at the election, to put out a statement declaring that Mr Hague had shown

**Tory leader on the offensive as attack is seen as challenge to his leadership, writes Philip Webster**

bold leadership and had "clear prime ministerial qualities".

Mr Portillo had written in *The Daily Telegraph* that the Tories should "provide leadership" over the single currency and that the party could become a credible force again only "by showing it has something to say".

Sources close to Mr Portillo said he had been taken aback to see his remarks presented as criticism.

Mr Heseltine told Radio 4's *Today* programme: "When Michael comes back there is going to be a concerted campaign in which newspapers like the *Telegraph* will play a significant part in order to replace Hague with Portillo. It's as clear as any political event in the future ever can be." Mr

Portillo's subsequent statement praising Mr Hague highlighted his leadership on Europe in particular. "He richly deserved the overwhelming victory he achieved in the recent ballot of party members."

"I am a strong supporter of all his policies, including those on Europe. It is only the Conservative Party which can provide leadership to the many groups which are pointing out the risks of entry to economic and monetary union."

"William Hague's leadership on this will bring about the revival of the party's fortunes and confirm his clear prime ministerial qualities."

Mr Portillo's statement did not explicitly rule out a future leadership challenge. In his article Mr Portillo urged Mr Hague to "capitalise" on his victory in the euro ballot to lead the fight to save the pound. Mr Hague ruled out joining monetary union for the lifetime of the next Parliament. But the former Defence Secretary wrote that unless the Conservatives started showing leadership, opposition to the single currency would be "whittled away".

Leading article, page 21



The former MP Rod Richards celebrating being chosen as the Tory candidate for Welsh First Secretary yesterday

## Tories steal a march in Wales

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES AND ROLAND WATSON

THE Conservatives yesterday chose their candidate to lead them into the elections to the Welsh assembly as Labour grappled with the dilemma of how to keep control of its plans for devolution.

Rod Richards, a former Tory MP, was selected to lead the party in Wales. Mr Richards beat law lecturer Nick Bourne, widely regarded as William Hague's first choice, by 3,873 votes to 2,798. Mr Richards, 51, was on the Select Committee for Welsh Affairs and Welsh Office Minister between 1994 and 1996 but resigned when an affair was made public.

In contrast, the resignation of Ron Davies and inability of

Alun Michael, the fledgling Welsh Secretary, to make an impression on opinion polls in Wales against Rhodri Morgan, the popular former front-bench spokesman, has left the process for selecting Labour's candidate for the post of Welsh First Secretary in disarray.

The decision may be shelved until after May's elections, when the choice would be left to successful Labour candidates, giving Mr Michael time to build up his profile locally.

It would also give him, as Tony Blair's preferred choice, the best platform from which to offer his potential backers jobs in the assembly and party advancement. But with the grass roots in Wales in febrile

mood and members briding at London interference, one MP suggested the best boost would be for the Prime Minister to denounce him.

The job of delivering for Mr Michael has been given to George Wright, the 63-year-old veteran Transport and General Workers' Union fixer and "godfather" figure in the Welsh Labour Party. Mr Morgan's popularity almost certainly means the contest will not be run on a one-member-one-vote basis. It could be left to the Welsh executive, but that is likely to be seen as too centralised, and would spark a revolt among party members denied a say.

The frontrunner remains an

electoral college, the method by which Mr Davies was elected, giving a third of the votes each to MPs and assembly candidates, unions, and constituencies.

Under such a scheme Mr Wright becomes a central figure. Welsh MPs believe he could deliver the five biggest unions for Mr Michael.

The arguments for backing Mr Michael are likely to centre around the prospects of the Principality going penniless if the will of London is denied.

Mr Michael, Mr Morgan and Wayne David, the MEP and third leadership contender, will meet the Welsh party executive again tomorrow to try to agree a way ahead.

Get rid of wigs as well, Irvine tells MPs

By FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor yesterday defended his wish to be rid of his 17th-century ceremonial costume and suggested judges and lawyers would also be better off without wigs.

Lord Irvine of Lairg said that the rest of the country had discarded wigs at the end of the 18th century. "I have never thought that the quality of justice or the effectiveness of advocacy depended in the least upon what advocates wear."

Lawyers needed to be distinguished from everyone else in court but a gown and bands were "quite sufficient", he told the Home Affairs committee.

But in an attempt to forestall opposition from traditionalist Tory peers, he insisted that he had no intention of tampering with the costume worn when sitting as Speaker on the Wool-sack in the Lords. He told MPs that in his view, the "days of breeches, tights and buckled shoes" were over. "I have no objection on great occasions of state like the opening of Parliament," he said.

Leading article, page 21

## Why the Blairites must debunk the Livingstone myth

KEN LIVINGSTONE is the wrong person to become mayor of London. He is disqualified both because of his record leading the old Greater London Council and because of the qualities needed for the new post. Labour leaders obviously agree, not wanting him in a position where he could challenge the Government.

However, the leadership has so far not confronted Mr Livingstone on these terms. It does not want to get into a "Ken versus the Blairites" dispute. The main focus now is procedural. Labour officials point out that narrowing down the

choice of candidates through interview has been used for all other bodies.

However, procedural devices are the wrong way to block Mr Livingstone. Of course, the party has the power to outmanoeuvre London activists, but this would be at the cost of much bitterness and splits. If the Blairites want to demonstrate that Labour has changed, they have to challenge the Livingstone myth.

Mr Livingstone is one of the most engaging politicians, with a disarming candour and sure populist touch. He has managed to cre-

ate a rose-tinted picture of the GLC years, a mixture of cheap Tube fares, jolly japes and impudent challenge to Margaret Thatcher at her most powerful. He became the People's Ken, a martyr of Thatcherism.

His record in office was in reality much less successful. After the coup which established him as Labour leader in 1981, Mr Livingstone quickly epitomised the London loony left. His squabbling regime was unpopular because of its grants to fringe groups, its big increases in rates and its gesture politics. The low fares campaign was

### RIDDELL ON POLITICS

fiscally irresponsible and was eventually blocked in the courts.

As Tony Travers of the Greater London Group at the London School of Economics has pointed out, "it took Mrs Thatcher to restore Ken Livingstone's popularity. Her random and ill thought-through decision to abolish the GLC reversed its leader's popularity slump". Mr Livingstone and the GLC leadership depicted them-

selves as victims of Thatcherite oppression. The myth was born.

Mr Livingstone's five-year roller-coaster in County Hall was partly because the old GLC had lost its way. What the Government has now proposed is very different. According to its White Paper last March, the elected mayor will run new transport and economic development bodies, work with a new Metropolitan Police authority to tackle crime, organise London-wide action to improve the environment, oversee a new fire authority and be a voice for London in developing tourism, culture and sport.

What is needed is someone with a proven executive background to control a budget of more than £3.3 billion a year, and to sort the urgent problems of the London Underground, not a gesture politician, however charming. Tony Blair, who is playing the London issue very long, has personally pushed the idea of elected mayors despite sceptical colleagues.

In America, the most successful mayors have proven themselves running organisations. They often come from outside the ranks of party politicians. Mr Blair is interested in a more independent figure of

this type, though the list of possible candidates with the right experience and public profile is not long. Bob Ayling is fully occupied with the problems of British Airways. Sir Paul Condon is tarnished by the Stephen Lawrence affair. The Blairites mistrust Richard Branson and Heather Rabbatts. Lambeth's feisty chief executive, is little known outside local authority circles.

Not someone of this kind might not only be the best mayor but might also defeat Mr Livingstone.

PETER RIDDELL

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# Bermuda's Left sweeps away the old order

THE 60,000 inhabitants of Bermuda's most populous remaining colony awoke yesterday with sore heads and squinted at the dawn rising on a whole new world.

It looked just like a normal day in paradise. The 200 islands, poking out of the turquoise Atlantic, 617 miles off North Carolina, were as lush as ever; the beaches as beautiful. But on Monday Bermudians went to the polls and elected a Labour Government for the first time in their history.

The victory was unexpected and suddenly the eyes of some of the richest men and wealthiest international companies in the world were turned to this outpost of Empire, wondering what the future holds for their offshore businesses.

The Progressive Labour Party (PLP), the party of most of the working-class black population, swept to power with 26 of the 40 seats in parliament.

## Island tax haven spurns party of prosperity, writes Damian Whitworth

The defeated United Bermuda Party (UBP) was left with just 14 seats.

The UBP has dominated Government since party politics emerged in the 1960s. And although Pamela Gordon, the outgoing Premier, is black, the majority of its members are from the white population, many of them descendants of Britons who first arrived in Bermuda in the 17th century.

As hundreds of supporters of the Labour Party converged on parliament for the swearing-in of the new leader,

Jennifer Smith, and her Cabinet, it was claimed that this was the end of centuries of minority rule.

"We've finally got rid of the oligarchy," whooped one woman, punching the air with her fist. Ms Smith said her party's victory heralded the arrival of "new" Bermuda. The PLP has transformed itself in "new" Labour style, moving to the Centre to capture middle-class votes on an island where the annual per capita income of \$36,000 (£22,000) is one of the highest in the world.

The party had remained in the political wilderness since its inception 35 years ago because the electorate failed to trust it on handling of the economy which is dependent on the offshore banking industry, particularly the insurance business. Ms Smith wooed the local and international community and was quick to thank them in her victory speech.

But the party played up to the feeling, especially among young Bermudians, that the incumbent Government was more interested in looking after those who base their businesses on the island than those who live there. "They were for the people of Bermuda, but not the Bermudians," said Leon Stevens, a tradesman.

The issue of independence, which was once held dear by the Labour Party, was also carefully dropped. A referendum two years ago overwhelmingly rejected cutting ties with Britain. But some fear that the issue still simmers in the Labour Party and may resurface now that it has a commanding majority.

One other vote-winner was the outcry that followed when the popular English Police Commissioner, Colin Coxall, was forced off the island after a government minister was found to have links to suspected drugs dealers that the police had picked up.

As the victory parade wound its way yesterday from the residence of the Governor - Lord Waddington, the former Home Secretary - to parliament, Bermudians were



Jennifer Smith, the first Labour Prime Minister in the history of Bermuda

## LAST OUTPOST OF EMPIRE

THE tiny island of Bermuda, one of the last remaining outposts of the British Empire, is the only country in the world where McDonald's restaurants are banned by law (Michael Dynes writes).

But the island's 60,000 inhabitants, and the 600,000 tourists who visit each year, many of whom are rich Americans in search of British nostalgia, clearly like it that way.

Some 600 miles from its nearest neighbour, and closer to Nova Scotia than the Caribbean, Bermuda has preserved a bizarre colonial way of life that has become extinct elsewhere.

Men in blazers and long shorts still greet each other in the island's business district in the capital of Hamilton. They still drive on the left, take tea at four, cherish their red phone boxes and refuse to switch to metric weights and measures.

There are heavy fines for breaking the 20mph speed limit, fines for littering the manicured streets and parks, and fines for any male or female who dares to display a naked

torso in public. Car hire firms are also banned in an attempt by the authorities to contain traffic congestion.

It has become a magnet for the super rich and famous in search of a quiet life in paradise. Silvio Berlusconi, Italy's disgraced media tycoon, Ross Perot, the American billionaire, and David Bowie, the British pop star, all have houses in the upmarket Tuckers Town district.

Affluent homes and packed marinas are evidence that great wealth resides on the shores of the 21-mile long island. It is estimated that 10 per cent of the population owns 90 per cent of the wealth, and average incomes at \$36,000 a year are among the highest in the world.

The island's financial district has quietly become the world's third largest insurance market after London and New York, writing \$20 billion (£12.5 billion) worth of business every year.

But there are fears that the island's financial future could be undermined by the threat of increased government regulation from Britain.

excited that the island, which limits cars to one per household and bans hire vehicles, almost had a traffic jam. Hundreds of people crowded the streets, shrugging off hangovers to get the party going again.

Amid a throng of drummers, women in hair-curlers and men cracked open cans of rum and ginger beer. "It's dark and stormy," said a reveler as he passed the drinks around.

Those looking on with concern will hope that that does not become the political outlook. Despite its famed beauty and reputation as a safe tourist destination, Bermuda has not been free of tension. In the 1970s race dominated politics and there were riots in 1972-3 and 1977.

One senior independent fig-

ure in Bermudian politics who declined to be named, said that the issue of independence had not gone away. "It is still very much under the surface, but it is there and it will rise again, even though both parties made sure they didn't include it as part of their platform," he said.

The Royal Gazette, Bermuda's newspaper, said that the PLP had scored a stunning victory because voters were fed up with a divided UBP and felt that it was time for a change. "The UBP campaign emphasis on the economy and on the dangers of a change in Government was not enough to create a win. The UBP has literally been crushed," the paper said.

But it added that the new Government faced a big challenge in managing an economy which is attractive to for-

eign businesses because of the absence of income tax. "When the celebrating stops the PLP's big challenge will be to prove that it can manage the complex economy. It will have to prove that it will not drive out international companies, as has so often been predicted, or use taxation to divide the Bermudian people. It is not easy for any party to meet the very high expectations of Bermudians, the high standard of living they take for granted."

However, the paper urged support for the new Government. "To those powerful people who are distraught or angry at a sweeping PLP victory after some 35 years, let us simply say, give them a fair chance. This is Bermuda and the people have spoken."

Leading article, page 21

## Dalai Lama asks China for talks

Washington: The Dalai Lama has ruled out any unilateral statement aimed at paving the way for negotiations with China unless his Tibetan government-in-exile can hold informal talks with Beijing first. The Tibetan spiritual leader spoke after a brief White House meeting with President Clinton, held despite a new warning from China that such a meeting would harm Chinese-American relations.

In a written statement, the Dalai Lama said: "I do not wish to make any unilateral statement without the opportunity of prior informal consultation with the Chinese leadership. I believe such consultation needs to take place in order to forestall misunderstanding." (AFP)

## Mubarak in spy deal

Cairo: President Mubarak of Egypt has revealed that he had released a British spy imprisoned here a number of years ago but said he will not free the Israeli spy Azzam Azzam. The British spy was released after a surprise visit here following the 1991 Gulf War by John Major, then Prime Minister. Mr Mubarak did not disclose the spy's identity. Egypt said it rejected a US request to free Azzam, who has served more than a year of his 15-year prison term with hard labour. (AFP)

## Abacha's loot returned

Abuja: The family of General Sani Abacha, the late dictator of Nigeria, has handed back to the Government more than \$750 million in state funds illegally amassed by the former leader, a government spokesman said. The money has been deposited at the Central Bank of Nigeria. Mohammed Haruna told reporters. During his five-year dictatorship, Abacha diverted hundreds of millions of dollars in government funds into his personal accounts. (AP)

## Club Med siege ends

Paris: A group of around 290 tourists have flown back to France after being held hostage for three days by striking workers at a Club Med resort on the Caribbean island of Martinique. The holidaymakers were trapped inside their village complex last Thursday and were only rescued on Sunday night when police in riot gear were called in to break through the picket line. Club Med said in a statement that the holiday village would remain closed until further notice. (Reuters)

## Strangers again

Sydney: A couple who wooed the world when they met and married on the same day for a radio promotion have split up two months after their lavish ceremony. Lei Bunyan, 22, and Glenn Emerson, 24, were taken to Paris for a honeymoon with prizes and sponsorships worth \$300,000 (£40,000). They were also flown to London after British and Australian newspapers featured them on their front pages in stories dubbed "Two Strangers and A Wedding". (AFP)

## Growing pains

Amsterdam: Dutch farmers whose slow-growing cucumbers have been causing them headaches may have found a solution - aspirin. For the cucumbers, that is. Scientists with the Dutch research institute TNO have discovered that feeding aspirin to cucumber plants helps prevent thickening of the root walls, enabling the plants to absorb water and minerals more easily. No trace of the aspirin, which was fed to plants in a solution, was found in the cucumbers themselves. (AP)

# New leader breaks with tradition

By NEIL ROBERTS

BERMUDA's new Prime Minister, Jennifer Smith, has the distinction of topping one of the world's longest-serving governments.

At the age of 51, she becomes Bermuda's second woman leader, replacing Pamela Gordon, the charismatic and younger United Bermuda Party leader, ousted in Monday's election. It was the first time the UBP had lost an election since Bermuda's parliamentary system was introduced in 1968.

Both women were new leaders of their parties when they came to the fore a little over two years ago.

Ms Smith has a distinctive

style. She hardly speaks to the media except through arranged press conferences, campaigned hard on her platform for a "new Bermuda" and promised to boost the number of Bermudians in senior jobs, limiting opportunities for expatriate workers.

The UBP, even with many black Cabinet ministers, has never truly been seen as a friend of black people's interests. The Progressive Labour Party has always appealed to the black working class. It has come close to power before, losing by just four seats in 1980 and 1993.

But now it can also count on

the black middle-class vote, having made promises of better opportunities for Bermudians and lower cost housing on a 22-square-mile island where property commands high prices.

The worry for middle-class white Bermudians, traditionally UBP voters, is that the new Government and the personal style of Ms Smith, a single woman, could drive away international business.

Finance and tourism are the two main pillars of Bermuda's economy. The island, despite its tiny size, is one of the world's leading sellers of reinsurance. It is also home to doz-

ens of international accountancy, banking and insurance firms.

Bermuda's new leader pledged there would be no exodus of business and insisted that the island would not lose its distinctive charm under her rule.

Both Ms Smith and Ms Gordon appealed to the young, but it was Ms Smith who won their votes, despite the charisma and beauty of her rival, a half-sister to Moira Stewart, the BBC newsreader. Ms Gordon was naturally seen as the ally of Bermuda's business community. This year, she completed her degree in business studies from Queens University in Ontario. Ms Smith worked her way up the party.

## Briton gets out of jail in dustbin

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID

SPANISH police on the holiday island of Majorca were yesterday hunting for a member of a British gang allegedly involved in drug-smuggling who escaped from prison concealed in a rubbish bin.

Police said that Paul Heath, 30, escaped from a prison in Palma, the island's capital, on Sunday night. He had hidden inside one of the rubbish containers that are taken out of the prison every night and left in the street.

Heath was being held on remand while he awaited trial on charges of trafficking in the drug ecstasy. Police said he was the number two man in a British gang that controlled 70 per cent of the market for ecstasy on the island. Police said Heath had been caught red-handed as he picked up more than 1,000 ecstasy tablets in April. He was due to go on trial in a few months.

Local newspapers in Majorca yesterday published photographs of Heath on their front pages as police appealed for help in tracking him down before he can flee the island. They said he was desperate, but not dangerous. The prison yesterday announced an inquiry into his escape.

## Family claim for first US President

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

EVEN George Washington, America's first President, stands accused of having an "inappropriate relationship". An Illinois woman named Janet Allen yesterday renewed her claim that she is descended from Washington and a slave on his brother's plantation, named Venus.

Ms Allen hopes that recent genetic tests suggesting that Thomas Jefferson fathered a child with his slave, Sally Hemmings, will help her to prove her presidential lineage. "We're trying to prove who we are," she told a Chicago newspaper. "This is where the battle lines are drawn."

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, which manages Washington's estate, has denied Ms Allen access to samples of Washington's hair that might solve the puzzle through DNA analysis.

The estate's researchers have confirmed that Ms Allen's slave ancestors played an important role in Washington's family, but they dispute



Washington: accused of inappropriate relations

her claim. Based on oral tradition, the Allen family claims that Washington probably met Venus in 1784 when he went to comfort his brother's family after the death of a nephew. Washington's brother, John Augustine Washington, wrote at the time asking George to visit, although there is no record of whether the trip took place.

At some point over the next two years, Venus gave birth to a mulatto son named West Ford. Ms Allen's great-great-grandfather, Mr Ford moved to Washington's estate at Mount Vernon, Virginia, where Washington's wife, Martha, died in 1802. Washington himself had passed away three years earlier. Scholars argue that America's founding father was sterile, and therefore incapable of fathering Ford.

## Theologian dismissed by Vatican

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE Vatican was accused yesterday of hypocrisy after it ordered the dismissal of a dissident Roman Catholic theologian from Milan's main Catholic university after he called into question the existence of Hell and challenged Church authority and teaching on sexual morality.

The removal of Luigi Lombardo Vallauri from the chair of philosophy of law at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart has led to charges of inconsistency as the Pope prepares to apologise for the excesses of the Church during the Inquisition.

The Rome daily *La Repubblica* described Professor Vallauri as "one of the most original thinkers of our time" and said he had been subjected to a secret trial by Cardinal Pio Laghi, the prefect of the Pontifical Congregation for Catholic Education. "This was a trial worthy of another era," said an article headlined "The New Inquisitors".

Professor Vallauri said: "I do not know exactly what the charges against me are. In a letter, they were indicated to me in general terms: doctrine on Hell, original sin, authority of the teaching of the Church, sexual morality."

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### Auschwitz synagogue reborn as museum

By Roger Boyes

THE only surviving synagogue near the Nazi death camp of Auschwitz was reopened yesterday and will become the centre of a Jewish religious and cultural institute.

The opening coincides with the 60th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the "Night of Broken Glass", which saw the destruction of hundreds of German and Austrian synagogues. That night of arson and looting is regarded as the critical step on the road to the Holocaust.

Until recently the synagogue in the southern Polish town of Oswiecim, the Polish name for Auschwitz, was used as a carpet store. The New York-based Auschwitz Jewish Centre Foundation wants to make the synagogue part of a museum illustrating Jewish life in a place which has become a synonym for the death of Jews.

Fred Schwartz, the president of the foundation, said the project costing between \$5 million (£3 million) and \$10 million was supported by the governments and religious leaders of all faiths in Poland and the United States.

# Cold and hunger drive Russians from villages

AS RUSSIAN and European Union officials worked out the details of a multimillion-pound aid package to help Russia through the winter, reports emerged yesterday that hundreds of inhabitants of remote villages in the far north of the country were abandoning their homes in search of food and fuel.

In the far eastern port of Vladivostok, local authorities closed schools and day-care centres yesterday because there was no heating. The Vladivostok energy supplier said it was unable to buy fuel or repair pipelines because the city had not paid its bills.

Russian officials now acknowledge that there is a desperate need for humanitarian aid from abroad to help people in the worst hit regions get through the winter. Last week Russia signed an agreement with the United States for the supply of 3.1 million tonnes of food, including grain, pork and beef worth \$625 million (£375 million).

Yesterday Gennadi Kulik, a Deputy Prime Minister, told the Interfax news agency that there were plans to buy £260 million worth of food from the EU, which would be resold on the domestic market and the profits used

### Western officials are scrambling to finalise aid package as fears of a winter famine grow, writes Robin Lodge in Moscow

to fund social programmes. In addition, he said, the EU could provide humanitarian aid worth up to £7.8 million. EU officials said last month that Russia had requested food aid during a visit to Moscow by Jacques Santer, the European Commission President.

But the Russians later denied that any such request had been made and many officials have insisted that Russia can deal with the problem itself. The Russian economic crisis, coupled with a disastrous harvest — down nearly 50 per cent on 1997 — and falling food imports, have raised serious

concerns that many parts of the country will face catastrophic shortages during the winter months. Hundreds of thousands of people are already having difficulties finding enough to eat and some officials have expressed fears of famine breaking out in the more remote regions.

In Chukotka, the north-eastern tip of the country across the Bering Straits from Alaska, Aleksandr Tryapitsyn, the deputy governor of the region, told Russian television that the authorities had begun evacuating hundreds of people from the Arctic town of Cape Schmidt, a mining cen-

tre that relies entirely on federal subsidies for its food and fuel supplies. Conditions in Chukotka are particularly harsh, with the winter lasting nine months of the year and temperatures plummeting to minus 55C (minus 67F).

The problem is made worse by poor distribution and bureaucracy, which often leads to food supplies being held up for days or weeks at railway junctions. Aid distribution is frequently hampered by customs officials and there have been accusations levelled in the past against the West of attempting to off-load substandard food and out-of-date medicines on Russia. The International Red Cross, the main non-governmental organisation dealing with aid to Russia, is attempting to raise £11 million in an emergency winter appeal for Russia and the former Soviet republics of Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova.

□ Tallinn: Estonian authorities yesterday turned off the water supply to the Russian border city of Ivangorod because it had not paid its water bill. Officials in the Estonian city of Narva, where the region's main water utility is located, said that Ivangorod had failed to pay water bills of more than \$1 million. (AP)

### General demoted to private

Moscow: President Maslhadov of Chechnya yesterday demoted the warlord Salman Raduyev from brigadier general to private after he was convicted of attempting a coup, news reports said. As brigadier gen-

eral, Raduyev was a field commander in the 1994-96 war with Russia for independence. He had been demoted to private after his resignation and was tried in absentia for the coup attempt. (AP)



Elderly visitors arrive to inspect the new memorial to the millions of victims of Stalin's repression. Situated in a park on Krymskaya Embankment in Moscow, the monument was opened to the public yesterday.

### Root and branch appraisal of Paris

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ALL the trees in Paris are to be fitted with invisible electronic "collars" to enable the city's park keepers to identify the specific type, age and infirmities of each one at the push of a button.

About 30,000 trees have already been fitted with the electronic tags, and a further 60,000 will be similarly marked in the coming year at a cost of Fr35 million (£350,000).

The tags are inserted into the trunk without causing any damage to the tree and then masked with wood-coloured filler. The badge can be read, using a hand-held electronic device, at a distance of around a foot.

Paris city authorities say the plan will ensure accurate monitoring of diseases in the tree population, and may help to combat a major invasion by termites which has already affected about 1,300 trees.

Paris is one of the most densely wooded cities in Europe and the municipal foresters have often found it hard to track diseases and organise replanting programmes.

The new system, based on the electronic tagging system for livestock, will distinguish each tree from its neighbour by accessing a computer database with details of age, species, pruning history and any remedial treatment that might be required.

Plans to paint a number on each tree were rejected as unsightly, while nailing a badge to each trunk was also deemed unsuitable as it could harm the trees and would be liable to removal by vandals.



Amiror: says lyrics of peace songs are a lie

### General attacks songs of peace

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AN Israeli general who once provoked a storm by claiming that non-Orthodox Jews were not true members of the faith sparked a new furore yesterday by trying to censor peace songs in the military.

Major-General Yaacov Amiror, the first Orthodox Jew to serve on the General Staff, launched his attack on the songs at a closed seminar last month. The attack only came to light yesterday.

In *The Last War*, a soldier who fought in the 1973 Yom Kippur campaign promises his daughter there will be no more wars with the Arabs. The other lyric, *Winter '73*, is about parents' peace promises unfulfilled.

The general described the lyrics as "a lie", prompting furious criticism from the Left and from Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister. Mr Mordechai, a former senior officer, is known to be particularly fond of *Winter '73*.

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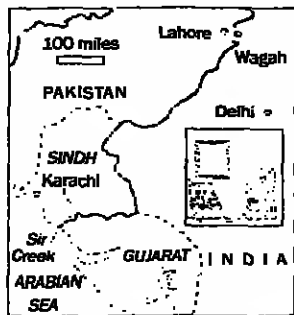




# Creek squabble stirs up India border tension

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

TALKS between India and Pakistan on a disputed creek which is short, narrow, shallow, unnavigable and of no commercial value, have broken down acrimoniously — the final proof, if it were needed, that the old enemies can agree on nothing.



They also disagreed yesterday on economic co-operation. There is almost no commerce between them, despite the enormous potential. A less restrictive border would produce an immediate annual trade of \$1 billion (£625 million), according to estimates by both sides. Instead, they exchange little more than the occasional batch of wheat or sugar.

The disputed waterway is known as Sir Creek, and demarcates part of the border between the western Indian state of Gujarat and Sindh province in Pakistan. Almost 90 years ago, an argument over a pile of firewood lying on the banks started a dispute that was taken up by the then rulers of the provinces of Kutch and Sindh, the latter of which is now part of Pakistan. That conflict has become the basis of a public wrangle between two nuclear powers.

The seeming pettiness of the dispute is justified by both

sides on the ground that the outcome would set a precedent for much larger questions of maritime boundary disputes. The breakdown of the talks was hardly a surprise: every area of dispute the two sides have discussed in official talks in Delhi since last week has generally ended in stalemate and recrimination.

Efforts to disengage from the Siachen Glacier in the Himalayas, where the two countries fight a pointless war for control of uninhabitable and strategically useless mountain-tops, collapsed amid bitter words on both sides last week.

The 20-mile Sir Creek was recognised in the early 1900s as the boundary between Kutch and Sindh. The then rul-

ers of Kutch and Sindh took the matter of the firewood seriously and referred it to high authorities in Bombay to arbitrate.

In 1914 the Government of India issued a resolution acceptable to both sides, resulting in the production of Map No B44. In it, a green line denoting the boundary was marked on the eastern bank — customary in British times, when rivers and creeks were never divided down the middle as a matter of policy because of the trouble it invariably caused.

Pakistan says the map places the creek in its territory; India says the green line was not a boundary but a "riband," a symbolic line, since rivers and creeks should be divided down the middle. Pakistan called for third-party arbitration to settle the issue but India, which never permits outside involvement in its disputes with the Islamic state, refused.

Nothing, it seems, is capable of easing cross-border tensions: even plans to open a bus route through the only official land crossing between both countries, at Wagah in Punjab, have come to nothing because of bureaucratic inertia and lack of political will.



A VIGILANTE in Indonesia's civilian security forces attacks a suspected student protester approaching the parliament building in Jakarta, where more than 5,000 students staged a demonstration yesterday. Similar protests were reported in at least six

## Indonesia protesters curbed

other cities as legislators opened a special meeting in the capital to prepare for elections in 1999. The students converged on the parliament but found their route blocked by soldiers and police. The standoff lasted for nearly four hours, but no serious violence was reported. The protesters said the parliamentary meeting was illegitimate because the assembly was the product of unfair elections held under former President Suharto, ousted on May 21. They said the presidency of B. J. Habibie, who took over, was also unconstitutional because the transfer was not carried out in parliament. (AFP)

## Scores held as China targets churches

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

CHINESE police have detained more than 140 Christian worshippers and beaten up some of their leaders in a new crackdown on underground Protestant churches, the New York-based Human Rights in China said in a letter released yesterday.

The Christians were arrested at meetings in underground or house-churches at two venues in central Henan province on October 26 and November 5, the letter from a church campaigner revealed.

It alleged that police "cruelly beat" at least 13 people identified as church leaders. Their whereabouts are currently unknown, the letter written by David Zhang, an unofficial spokesman for China's house-churches, said.

A police official in Wugang county, where 40 arrests were made earlier, said the authorities moved to ban an illegal meeting and took into custody those who resisted. The official claimed that some of the churchgoers shot at the officers with home-made rifles, and that those involved came from 16 Chinese provinces.

The Religious Affairs Bureau, a Chinese Communist Party organisation which monitors religious activity, refused to comment. Officials in Nan-yang, where arrests were also made, remained tight-lipped.

The letter said that on the night of October 26 police surrounded worshippers gathering in a village outside Wugang and in a sudden raid took away 11 church leaders. Ten days later, 60 miles away in Maryang, police broke up a house-church service and arrested more than 100 people.

In his letter, Mr Zhang predicted that in the next two months there will be greater religious persecution in China.

Political observers here said that despite a willingness on the part of China's leaders to discuss the issue of religious tolerance with leaders such as President Clinton and Mary Robinson, the United Nations Human Rights chief, intimidation of Christians continues.

## Suicide woman dies after botched rescue

Bangkok: A Thai woman fell to her death from a five-storey building after a police officer trying to talk her out of suicide made a sudden, failed bid to grab and rescue her.

Police in Hat Yai, 590 miles south of Bangkok, came under criticism yesterday for the botched rescue, which was seen by millions of Thais on television.

No nets were spread under Sripaphai Cheoyphiew, 25, during the five-hour standoff on Monday and no ambulance had been placed on

standby. Ms Sripaphai was reportedly depressed after her Malaysian boyfriend left her. She stood on the roof of her building during the ordeal as a plainclothes officer negotiated with her. At one point, he tried to grab her. In the video, she appeared startled and fell off the ledge.

The officer dived at her skirt and held on for about five seconds as she scrambled to find a handhold. But the skirt tore away and she fell, dying two hours later from internal bleeding. (AP)



The victim hangs by her skirt seconds before her fall

## Police 'bullied' Anwar foes

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysian police bullied two people into retracting sex charges against Anwar Ibrahim, the ousted Deputy Prime Minister, a court was told yesterday.

Mr Anwar is being tried on four corruption charges alleging that he used his position to quash the police investigation into the sex accusations. The former protégé of Dabuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, has denied the charges, maintaining that he is the victim of a plot.

But a senior police officer, Abdul Aziz Hussein, who led the investigation, said he received direct orders from top police officials to ensure that Mr Anwar's accusers withdrew the allegations.

Ummi Hafida Ali was taken in for questioning in August last year after she accused Mr Anwar of having sex with his driver and her sister-in-law, the wife of Mr Anwar's private secretary at the time. For eight hours, she was subjected to police interrogation during which she was threatened that she could be charged under the country's draconian Internal Security Act.

Mr Abdul Aziz said the aim of the investigation was to "neutralise" Ms Ummi and the driver, Azizan Abu Bakar, and get them "to retract their

accusations". At first, Ms Ummi was adamant about her accusations, contained in a letter written to Dr Mahathir.

It took Mr Abdul Aziz several more days to persuade her to come up with a strong enough retraction letter to satisfy his boss, Special Branch chief Mohamed Said Awang. Special Branch police also had to frighten Mr Azizan to get him to retract allegations that he had homosexual relations with Mr Anwar.

The trial is due to be adjourned on Saturday, three days before a summit of the 18-nation Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum. (AFP)

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# Help at last for hurricane victims

AS ANOTHER large United States aid delegation flew into Honduras yesterday, led by Tipper Gore, the wife of Vice-President Al Gore, relief officials here said they are seeing signs of progress as supplies have begun to reach even the most inaccessible areas where villages have, in some cases, been without food and drinking water for almost two weeks.



Relief officials delighted at efforts by governments and private groups, David Adams reports from Tegucigalpa

On the north coast, where relief supplies are being packaged by students whose classes have been suspended since Hurricane Mitch struck 11 days ago. Delighted relief officials say they are overwhelmed by the international support Honduras has received, not only from

bilateral aid, which is being channelled through local development groups, as well as another \$800,000 towards the larger European Union effort. Britain, France and Germany are also leading the debate over a moratorium on Honduras' \$4 billion foreign debt. In response to the impressive strides taken by Honduran governments in recent years to control spending and introduce democratic reforms, the Europeans are leaning towards a generous approach to the country's debt burden, possibly even writing off its \$1.8 billion debt with EU mem-

bers. On the ground, the British contribution is being spearheaded by Royal Navy vessels, HMS Sheffield, HMS Ocean and HMS Tristram - accompanied by 600 Royal Marine commandos. To prolong their presence, the crews of all three ships are on strict rotations. Yesterday HMS Sheffield was anchored outside the port of Puerto Castillo on the north coast as navy search and rescue teams were deployed on inflatable craft up the Aguan River, where extensive flooding has left many communities isolated. HMS Tristram and HMS Ocean, with eight heli-

copters on board, are active in the Mosquito Coast region on the border of Nicaragua and Honduras. "They have found very serious problems with lots of very sick people, children especially, suffering from diarrhoea and skin infections," said David Osborne, the British Ambassador to Honduras. Although there was little loss of life in the region, crops were ruined in many villages, leaving them without food for months. As the recovery effort moves into a long-term reconstruction phase, local officials say the country will need as much

as \$2 billion to repair its roads, bridges, water mains, electricity and telephones. Aid officials say privately that the Honduran Government is at a loss as to where to begin. "They understand now what's hit them, but they have no idea how to deal with it," said one official. The Central America Hurricane Appeal is collecting donations for victims of the disaster. The credit card donation line is (0870) 6060 900. Cheques, made payable to The DEC Hurricane Appeal, can be sent to The DEC Hurricane Appeal, PO Box 999, London EC3A 9AA.

## Debt aid for Mitch victims agreed

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor

BRITAIN and France committed £10 million each to a new trust fund yesterday designed to help Honduras and Nicaragua to service their debts as they begin to rebuild from the devastation of Hurricane Mitch. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and Dominique Strauss-Kahn, France's Economy and Finance Minister, also called on the Paris Club of international creditors to agree on a moratorium of all official bilateral debt. Even if the Paris Club were to agree on it, the crisis countries would still have to service debts to multilateral institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and the trust fund is designed to do this for them. M Strauss-Kahn went further than Mr Brown yesterday, promising that France would cancel all the debt owed to it by Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. It is believed to account for 2 per cent of Nicaragua's \$6.1 billion (£3.7 billion) foreign debt and 2 per cent of Honduras's £4.1 billion. Britain is owed small amounts, £900,000 by Nicaragua and £300,000 by Honduras. However, British officials said the Government opposed debt cancellation on principle, saying that only by remaining a creditor could Britain exert influence on developing countries to pursue sensible economic policies. Mr Brown also called yesterday for reducing the timetable for these countries to qualify for relief under the IMF and World Bank's Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative. His plan would give Nicaragua some debt relief by 2001 instead of 2002. Honduras could not expect any relief for five to six years, even under Mr Brown's proposal.

Janet Bush, page 29

## EU wrangles over funds for human rights

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

SENIOR European Union officials met last night to chart a way out of a management mess which has brought havoc to Europe's £70 million-a-year spending on human rights and threatened the existence of hundreds of projects funded by the EU to strengthen new democracies. Under fire from international organisations, the European Parliament and the EU's financial watchdogs, the Commission warily the Union's member governments to back the creation of a new European human rights agency. However, the critics want immediate action to ensure that millions of pounds of frozen funds reach needy projects around the world. Spending has become snarled in a bureaucratic turf war and legal wrangling over who allocates and manages money going to projects that range from helping torture victims to training judges in Poland and promoting democracy in Africa elsewhere. Jacques Santer, the Commission President, has been stung into action by an outcry from non-governmental organisations and a damning report from the EU Court of Auditors which accused the Brussels executive of "failing in its responsibility" and "resorting to shady accounting in the way it

administered rights spending. In a letter to Mr Santer, the International Human Rights Federation, Amnesty International and three other world organisations said "the consequences for many hundreds of projects based all over the world are extremely grave". A group of eminent advocates, including Mary Robinson, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, last month questioned the EU's commitment, saying that its approach to human rights "tends to be splintered, lacks leadership and is marginalised in policy-making". At the centre of the row is the Commission's decision to end its contract with the Brussels-based European Human Rights foundation, which has been running EU projects and had been due to take over the bulk of the management under the EU's rights and democracy programme. The Commission has now cancelled its arrangement on the grounds that there was no legal basis for funding the foundation's work. The critics say the real motive is the Commission's desire to keep control and apply political criteria, sending money to big government bodies at the expense of funding hundreds of small projects of the type favoured by the foundation.



A picture released yesterday showing Chinese personnel on structures erected on a disputed reef in the South China Sea. The Philippines Navy was ordered yesterday to block any further entry of Chinese vessels to Mischief Reef. President Estrada also ordered increased aerial patrols over the reef to support the naval

## Manila reinforces blockade

blockade but his spokesman denied Manila was gearing up for a military confrontation. The spokesman said the action was "to discourage Chinese fishing vessels' entry in that particular area" and emphasised Ma-

nila's position of solving the dispute diplomatically. The Philippines last week lodged a strong diplomatic protest, accusing China of engaging in a large-scale expansion of permanent structures it already created on the

Philippines-claimed reef. Manila officials said this was in violation of a "code of conduct" signed by the two nations to avoid taking further actions in the Spratlys, including Mischief Reef. The Philippines said there were indications the expanded structures could be used for military purposes. (AFP)

## Greenhouse gas treaty 'doomed by soaring American pollution'

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent in Buenos Aires

AN INTERNATIONAL treaty to fight global warming is already doomed because the United States will never meet its targets on reducing emissions, the American architect of the treaty claimed yesterday. Robert Reinstein, the State Department's negotiator at the Rio conference in 1992 which adopted the Climate Change Convention, said the latest analysis of America's greenhouse gas emissions from cars, factories, homes and businesses, showed they were soaring out of control and would be around 7.2 billion tonnes by the 2010 deadline. This, he said, had put the US on course to be about 30 per cent higher in its green-

house gas pollution than 1990 levels. Under agreements reached in Kyoto last year, the US agreed to reduce emissions by 7 per cent by 2010 to 5.4 billion tonnes. These explosive claims were made by Mr Reinstein at a conference of environment ministers and climate experts here aimed at charting a plan for implementation of the Kyoto protocol. "They [the Americans] signed up to something it is impossible to fulfil," said Mr Reinstein, who is no longer with the State Department and is attending as an observer. He said environmentalists believed that industrial nations like the US had a number of ways to meet the Kyoto targets. These included increasing the use of renewable sources of power and promoting leaner-burning power stations and cars, and energy-efficiency drives in homes and businesses. But Mr Reinstein

said the hope that technology would come to the rescue was flawed, as the changeover from old power stations and cars to energy-efficient systems was too slow. "If [the Americans] did all they can domestically at this moment, they could take the increase in emissions down to 12-15 per cent above 1990 levels. But that is still 19 per cent to 22 per cent above the target." Emission trading will allow the US to buy carbon credits, to offset its emissions at home, from countries which have met and exceeded their targets. Kirsty Hamilton of Greenpeace International said Mr Reinstein's study was "overly pessimistic". She said industries in America and Europe were now convinced that there were "big and cheap reductions of carbon dioxide which can be made in the US".

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Colombia chainsaw gang kill 13

By Gabriella Gaminì, South America Correspondent

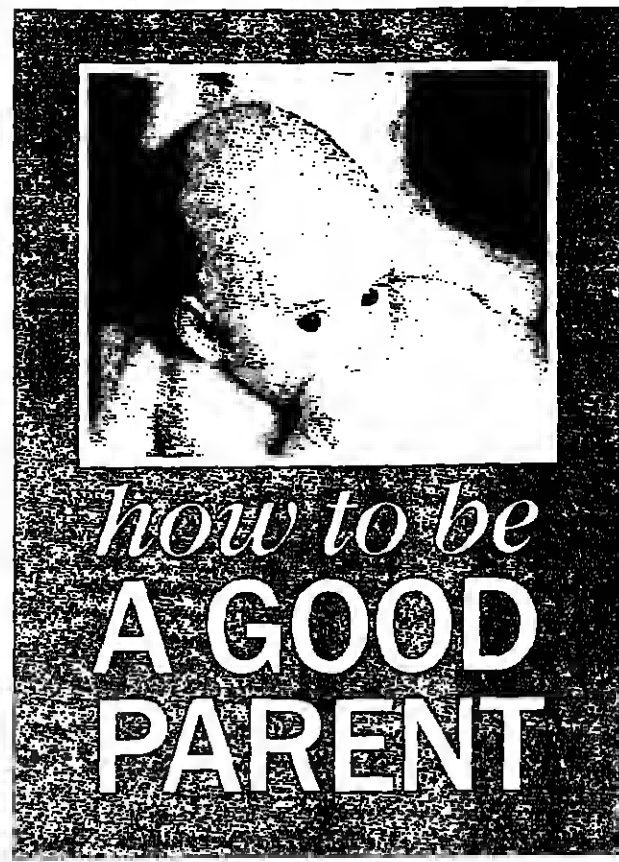
HOODED Colombian paramilitaries wielding chainsaws killed 13 peasants and injured more than 20 others during a dawn raid on two small neighbouring villages in the central state of Antioquia. They attacked the hamlets in the belief they were inhabited by sympathisers of left-wing guerrillas in the area. State police said they found a "horrible scene of dismembered bodies and splattered blood" in the villages of La Mona and Santa Isabel, about 155 miles from Bogotá. The group, calling itself R-20, also left behind leaflets and messages written in blood on the walls of farmers' homes, claiming responsibility. A police spokesman said the paramilitaries first used chainsaws to kill six people in La Mona before moving on to Santa Isabel. Ten of the victims were men. One was a 15-year-old girl, killed by the militiamen when they were unable to find her husband. In recent weeks paramilitaries have intensified attacks on civilians in Antioquia amid an upsurge of activity by the rebels.

Scores held as China targets churches  
FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

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# Loving someone else's children



## how to be A GOOD PARENT

### STEP-PARENTS AND GENES

It is not easy to love other people's children. Endearing habits in one's own toddlers are brashness in others. Forgiveness comes easier for errors that are home-grown.

Why, then, the step-parent who has to take on a fully-fledged family and behave as if it is his or hers. Nursery literature is stuffed with accounts of cruel step-parents who fail this demanding test, from *Cinderella to Hansel and Gretel*. A 16th-century French proverb says: "The mother of babes who elects to reward/Has taken their enemy into her bed."

In any culture, at any time, you will find tales of cruel step-parents and victimised stepchildren. Until recently such stories were regarded as hangovers from a credulous past; not even folk wisdom, but a Grimm reminder that children should be grateful for anything less than assault and battery from their natural parents. A short but fascinating book by two psychologists at Canada's McMaster University in Ontario, Martin Daly and Margot Wilson, paints a different picture. *The Truth about Cinderella* suggests that cruel step-parents are far from a myth. They are the uncomfortable, but literal, truth.

The story begins with Charles Darwin. His ideas about evolution percolated at what now seems a glacial pace. For a century, scientists believed them without really

understanding their full significance. There was a vagueness about whether natural selection operated at the level of the individual, the group, the species, at all three — or at none of them. Today all but a minority believe it operates at the level of the gene, making organisms no more than the outward expression of a covert selection taking place out of sight.

The competition is to ensure that your own genes, and not somebody else's, ring down the generations. This means that our interests are far more bound up in ensuring the survival of our own progeny than they can ever be in altruistic acts towards the progeny of others. Human beings and other animals can behave in ways that appear altruistic, and may be so. But such acts, today's Darwinians believe, are designed as a subtle form of self-promotion. They invite reciprocation and earn esteem, which enhances the breeding chances of the altruist.

Applying this uncomfortable doctrine to humans took even longer, even though the evidence was there. For example, in 1977, Gary Becker, the economist, showed from American demographic data that while having children within a marriage reduces the divorce rate, having stepchildren increases it. He concluded that genetic children have a value beyond the simply economic, while stepchildren do not.

Most try to love them as they would their own



Children's literature has always been full of accounts of cruel step-parents. But is blood really thicker than water?

suasive, Daly and Wilson set out to discover whether stepchildren really do suffer more abuse than genetic children. This is not entirely straightforward because there are a number of possible confounding factors and the US census, with which the two began their research, does not distinguish between genetic, adoptive and step-relationships.

Since these first studies, however, the mounting evidence has pointed in the same direction. A report by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children into child abuse in Britain in the 1980s, for example, showed that 32 per cent of the more than 4,000 cases of physical injury recorded were among children with a step-parent.

Canadian statistics show that a step-parent (overwhelmingly a stepfather) is 70 times more likely to kill a child un-

der two years old than is a natural father. Home Office statistics record that murders by stepfathers are also different from those by genetic fathers. While genetic fathers kill their children while they sleep, or as part of a suicide, stepfathers bludgeoned them to death.

In Finland, a survey of 9,000 15-year-old girls showed that 3.7 per cent of those living with a stepfather claimed to have been sexually abused, compared with 0.2 per cent of those living with a genetic father.

Daly and Wilson's findings have not made them universally popular, with their evidence described by some critics as "biased and biased". Even those who accept that stepchildren have, on average, a harder time than genetic children, have been reluctant to criticise step-families. Why? "Perhaps the main reason is that the writers feel the step-family life is

hard enough, without adding to the stigma," they say. They deal brutally with the "vacuous pop" put forward by psychologists to explain why step-parenthood is so difficult — for example, the theory that the role is "incompletely institutionalised" and step-parents simply don't know what to do.

Daly and Wilson says: "Some step-parents do indeed describe their ambiguous and inconsistent behaviour as a kind of perplexity, but this is surely a sign of internal motivational conflicts rather than of the absence of a script. People are ambivalent when they have conflicting desires."

Yet the majority of step-parents do not abuse the children in their care, and do their very best to love them as they would their own. They take them on as part of the deal, im-

PLICIT or explicit, that they strike with the natural parent. Some may be able to feel a love for them that is almost indistinguishable from that for their own children, others may not. At a time when the family is under threat from divorce and from those who claim all arrangements for raising children — so long as they are "loving" — are equally valid, it is also a reminder of the power of kinship. There are different kinds of love, and parental love does genuinely seem to be of a different character. Blood really is thicker than water.

NIGEL HAWKES

© The Truth about Cinderella is one of a series of four short books deriving from a programme of lectures and seminars organised at the London School of Economics on different aspects of Darwinism. They are all published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £2.99.

### CHILDREN AND PEERS

When *The Nurture Assumption* was published in America last month, it sent shockwaves through the academic world because its author, Judith Harris, questioned the power that parents have to shape the personalities of their children. Three years ago, 60-year-old Harris was an unknown grandmother with a psychology degree, writing college textbooks on developmental psychology at her home in New Jersey. "Like every other writer in this field, I subscribed to the idea that personality and behaviour are shaped by our parents," she says. "That belief has remained unshakable since it was propounded by Freud. I really believed it, too — until, by examining more of the research on which my books were based, I noticed inconsistencies. Many studies linking home environment with child development were poor, and I realised that I was dealing with a myth."

The sort of questions to which Harris wanted answers were, for example: why do the children of recent immigrants soon speak their new language fluently, without an accent? And why do identical twins, reared together, grow up to be as different from one another as identical twins brought up in different families?

"We know that roughly 50 per cent of our personality is due to our genes," she says. "That means that the other 50 per cent is formed by our environment. But whether that means home, as Freud maintained, is another matter. My question was why no attention had been paid to children's outside environment, especially between six and 12, when they form peer groups."

After six months of painstaking research, she came across an article by a British psychologist which provided a vital missing piece to the puzzle of what makes us who we are. Her eyes gleamed as she recalls the "eureka moment" — the most thrilling day of her life.

It was a dark afternoon in January 20, 1994, and she was reading an article on juvenile delinquency which suggested that teenagers act illegally in order to gain the status and privileges of adulthood. "That can't be right," I thought. In a flash it dawned on me that it must be the other way around. Teenagers aren't trying to be like adults, or they would be doing respectable tasks. They are distinguishing themselves from adults.

As children, we identify not with our parents but

with a group consisting of our peers: no matter how we act at home, we adapt our behaviour to fit in with them. That is the cornerstone of Harris's theory; and it runs contrary to our fundamental beliefs in the vulnerability and dependence of children, and their need for a secure home.

What enrages some childcare experts is her claim that children are not as fragile as we think, and will mostly not end up irremediably damaged by the occasional slaps by a divorcee, or by being brought up by a busy working mother or single parent.

"They have to be tough because the world doesn't handle them with kid gloves," Harris says. "They learn that early. I just had a letter from the mother of a boy born cross-eyed who was picked on incessantly at school, never made friends and grew up suffering from severe depression. His parents doted on him but psychiatrists only want



New theory: Judith Harris

ed to talk about his relationship with his parents."

Although emotional trauma, especially associated with divorce, is held to be one of the most damaging elements in a child's development, Harris believes that factors such as frequently moving home, changing schools or a drop in income are more likely to affect children, by forcing them to adapt to a new peer group.

Are parents likely to feel demoralised by a seeming lack of influence over their children's destiny? Harris thinks not. "They should worry less about being model parents," she says. "And there is another implication: in choosing where to live, how often to move and which school to send their children to, parents surely have more, not less, potential to guide their children's future."

ALEX KIRSTA

© The Nurture Assumption by Judith Harris is published by Bloomsbury, £8.99.

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## The monkeys that eat less and live longer

WORMS do it, flies do it and it seems monkeys do it, too. At a recent meeting in Reston, Virginia, three American teams who are raising rhesus monkeys on very restricted diets gave a progress report. They aim to see whether restricting calories to low levels increases lifespan, as it does in worms, flies and rodents. The evidence, though not conclusive, suggests that it does.

The monkeys in the trials are only in middle age, but they show fewer signs of age-related diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer than do their better-fed siblings. Whether any human being would choose starvation rations in order to win a few extra years is doubtful, but the experiments could tease out the reasons and provide a less unpleasant way of achieving the same result.

The groups — led by Dr Mark Lane at the US National Institute on Ageing, Richard Weindruch at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and Dr Barbara Hansen at the University of Maryland in Baltimore — all had similar findings. *Science* reports. The NIA and Wisconsin teams provide their rhesus monkeys with 30 per cent fewer calories than control monkeys, while the Maryland team has adjusted the diet so that the monkeys gain no more weight than they carried in early adulthood.

With these diets the monkeys are clearly hungry a good

part of the time. They eat faster than control monkeys fed a more generous diet, and become more excited if accidentally given extra food. But their behaviour shows no particular signs of stress, and their health is good. They all have lower blood cholesterol and blood pressure, better insulin sensitivity and lower level of diabetes. The most striking result came from the NIA group, which has found the first possible signs of increased lifespan. Of 120 monkeys on the restricted diet, one has so far died, compared with five of the 120 controls.



SCIENCE BRIEFING  
Nigel Hawkes

"The message from the monkeys is that 90 per cent of those markers that we have examined behave exactly as they do in rodents," says Dr Lane. The only real problem so far observed is delayed sexual and skeletal maturity. None of the monkeys has been bred, however, so it is not clear whether their fertility has been affected.

Rats and mice live up to 40 per cent longer on severely restricted diets, and if the same is true of monkeys, it will be a long time before the final results of these experiments are in. The normal lifespan of a rhesus monkey is 40, and these test animals are in their twenties. Even if they do live longer, interpreting the results could be a challenge.

Dr Roy Walford of the University of California at Los Angeles says that restricting calo-

ries does not necessarily distinguish between different theories of ageing. This is because it has many effects: improving the repair of DNA, decreasing the damage done by free radicals, produced by metabolism, preserving the immune system and regulating

insulin. So the monkeys may tell us that it works, but not why. It might have been quicker to study the longevity of jockeys, or monks who lead an abstemious life — two groups as familiar with the nagging feeling of hunger as the rhesus monkeys.

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# The First Lady is a champ

### She makes Republicans look dowdy, says Bronwen Maddox

If you doubt that Hillary Clinton is aiming eventually for high political office — and probably for a new husband — take a look at the pictures in the December issue of *Vogue*. Taken just before the November 3 elections by star photographer Annie Leibovitz for the American edition, but now circulating widely, they are the most flattering — in fact, beautiful — published of the First Lady.

Against the pale blue sky of a Washington autumn morning, framed by the White House's classical pillars, Hillary sits at a small breakfast table on the Truman balcony, working quietly at a sheaf of papers. Every detail is inserted with the calculation of a Vermeer portrait: the angled pen and the professional tilt at which she holds the report show she means business; the gold-rimmed coffee cup echoes her wedding ring, also reflected in the table top. Her hair is swept gracefully but softly back; the open-necked white shirt has a touch of Meryl Streep in *Out of Africa*, that tale of feminine grit during personal disaster.

### The new News are dull and stodgy to a man

Those shots of Hillary are the most memorable image from the campaign season. Normally an American election, passionately fought against a backdrop of banners and balloons, to a soundtrack of the nation's best rock music, thrusts at least half a dozen powerful figures prominently on to the national stage.

Not this one. Yes, we have Jesse "The Body" Ventura, the former wrestler who is the new governor of Minnesota. With verbal gifts outstripping that of most politicians, he deserves his new self-awarded title of "The Mind", not least for dubbing his former profession "ballet with violence".

But for all the unexpected drama of the Democrats' triumph, the past week has left national politics with a cast of breathtaking dullness. That goes above all for those now trying to fill the Newt-shaped hole in the capital's political scene.

The night before last, Newt Gingrich chose the landmark Willard Hotel for the first round of his farewell since his resignation as Speaker on Friday. The Willard is not an easy place in which to shine, oppressively refurbished in the Washington style which flatters the building at the expense of the occupants: chandeliers glinting off bald spots, heavy drapes echoing the heftiness of the women's double-breasted suits. But Mr Gingrich showed why he has effortlessly been a political star, rousing a stodgy crowd to its feet with a call for the new Republican leaders to keep their ideas fresh and wide-ranging.

They will disappoint him. Robert Livingston, his friend of 20 years, who now seems unchallenged for the succession, has been described as approaching politics like carpentry. He takes the pieces into a back room, worries

away at them, and emerges many hours later to announce proudly "Look, I've built a little consensus." A tall, grey, stooping man, he has been caught on television in only one moment of animation, some years ago: waving his arms, shouting and stomping self-consciously, he looked like an A-level schoolboy trying to act the storm scene from *King Lear*. His mother rang immediately from Louisiana to tell him he looked "like a lunatic", and he hasn't done it since.

But he towers above the runners for the party's other jobs on Capitol Hill, thrown open after Mr Gingrich's exit. They might as well go by the label of "the usual suspects", given that their names will never be household words. One after the other, they pop up in the television studios; with their *Thunderbird*-style hairlines and their vanishingly thin top lips, they look like John Major's *Spitting Image* puppet, gently washed with a light orange tan.

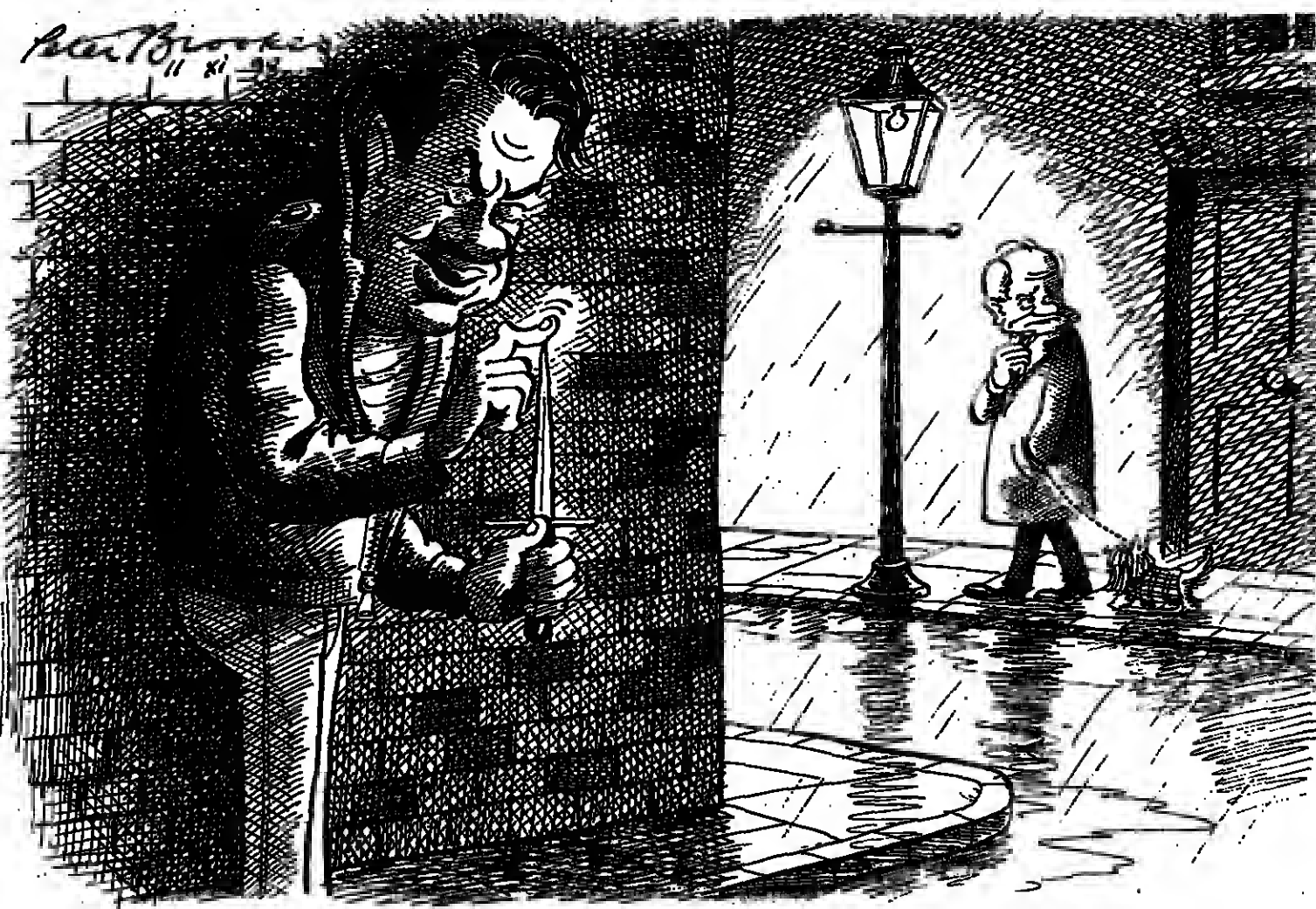
They have little to say, and they say it badly, exposing both the shallowness of their characters and of the party's current thinking. They are all tax-cutters, except perhaps discussing an economic slowdown, and yes, we might be on the verge of one of those; they all uphold family values, but are silent on the party's rifts over abortion.

Sensitive to the charge that Newt competes to claim togetherness, Jennifer Dunn of Washington State implored colleagues to "employ someone like me who is a communicator, someone who connects". J.C. Watts, the party's only black in Congress, who is running for Conference Chairman, said: "We're individuals, as Republicans, but we've got to take a serious look at this teamwork thing."

It will take a more powerful and articulate performance to protect the party against future election reversals. That is one reason, among many, why there is a buzz around Hillary. She is now confidently tipped for a Senate career, only one among many glittering options that are undeniably available.

Hillary had, by common agreement, a dazzling campaign season, giving powerful speeches across the country. But she and the President spent election night separately, we are told by *Newsweek* magazine. She invited her girlfriends to the White House movie theatre to watch *Beloved*, the new Oprah Winfrey epic about slavery. Her husband was huddled in his Chief of Staff's office, glued to the exit polls which spelled out his vindication, and then surfed the Net long into the night.

If impressive Republican leadership does not emerge, he may be able to spend future election nights happily watching Democratic victories. Not least the triumph of his wife, or former wife, as she may by then have chosen to be.



"IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF 'IF', BUT 'WHEN'..."

# Blair's heir apparent?

### Is Mandelson being groomed as a future party leader? His friends and foes think so, argues Roland Watson

Could Peter Mandelson one day become leader of the Labour Party? A few years ago, simply posing the question would have been judged a sign of lunacy. Even bookmakers with an eye for the fanciful would have declined to waste their time offering odds on such a patent absurdity. Just a few months ago it would have registered equally impressively on a register of nonsensical propositions.

Even raising the possibility today is to be accused of failing to appreciate the soul of the Labour Party and what makes it tick. Mr Mandelson, it is argued, is too deeply unpopular with too many people and has been for too long to have the remotest of chances.

Yet there are those at Westminster who are beginning to think the unthinkable, imagine the unimaginable and whisper the unwelcome: that the minister formerly known as the Prince of Darkness might, just might one day go one better than his grandfather Herbert Morrison, Deputy Prime Minister to Clement Attlee, and inherit the Labour crown.

Mr Mandelson has been in the news a great deal lately, despite the BBC's best efforts. After his promotion to the Cabinet in the summer he hasn't merely blinked into the limelight so much as blazed a trail. Even before the controversy over his sexuality, he was making headlines.

His emergence from the shadows has been conducted with extraordinary zeal and determination. In a matter of months he has transformed himself from a behind-the-scenes manager of the message to becoming a central part of the message in his own right. Barely four years ago his alienation from the centre of Labour power under John Smith's leadership was absolute. The transformation is stunning. He is a top-table member of the new Labour establishment. He could even argue his case as a member of the Establishment, if there is still a difference. He is the only member of the Government to attend Prince Charles' 50th birthday party.

The combination of Mr Mandelson's promotion to the Cabinet and his ensuing zest for a high-profile political life have lodged one tantalising thought in the minds of more than a few MPs: that the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry may be beginning to believe that he could take over from Tony Blair. He may even be being groomed for the job.

"There is a definite agenda here. I

am quite clear about that, for Mandelson to succeed Blair," according to one senior Labour MP. That the words come from someone owing their allegiance to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor whose relationship with Mr Mandelson verges from hostile to distrustful, should act as a warning.

Members of the Brown camp are not alone in perceiving an agenda, which has been fuelled by Philip Gould's book *The Unfinished Revolution*, serialised in *The Times*. Written with the blessing of No 10 by one of Mr Blair's most senior advisers, the book gives Mr Mandelson a peerless role in saving the party from self-destruction. But its attempt to clear him of deceiving Mr Brown during the jostling for position in the days following Smith's death has prompted charges that Mr Gould has rewritten history to nail the most damaging charge held against Mr Mandelson within the party.

If the aim of Gould's book was to assuage the suspicions of the Brownites, it has failed. One MP close to the Chancellor said the book had been discussed briefly by Mr Brown and his team — and ominously for Mr Mandelson — "stored in the memory". On the basis that there is nothing more crippling to a political career than being talked of as a future leader, the Brown camp may be talking Mr Mandelson's ambitions up in the hope of dashing them.

But Mr Mandelson's ambitions hardly need talking up. He has been busy himself, matching relish for his grow-up job with artful construction of a power base from his DTI office. His courtship with business has been energetic. "We are intensely relaxed about people getting filthy rich," he told computer executives last month in California's Silicon Valley.

Addressing the CBI conference last week, he was notably more assured than at the Labour conference. His detractors would suggest he felt more at home with his Birmingham audi-

### Peter's ambitions hardly need talking up

ence of businessmen than the party faithful in Blackpool. But it may simply be that he is developing greater confidence in public. He has courted not only new Labour's new friends, but also more traditional constituencies. He described the idea that General Pinochet could claim diplomatic immunity as "gut-wrenching". It may have earned him criticism from the Tories, but it secured a congratulatory Commons motion from Tony Benn.

But the most fascinating alliance he has forged with the Left is within his own department. His relationship with his DTI Number Two, Ian McCartney, is developing into one of Westminster's most surprising double-acts.

They are both clearly making a huge effort and are said to get on better than anyone could imagine. That is possibly because they both need each other. Mr McCartney self-evidently needs the support of his boss. But Mr Mandelson needs him more. Mr McCartney is the Government's leading left-winger outside the Cabinet. He enjoys almost cult standing among the rank and file. As Peter's friend he could do wonders for Mr Mandelson's standing in a party which knows him chiefly from grapevine sniping rather than at first hand.

Mr Mandelson has been attracting rave reviews elsewhere. The adulatory *Newswatch* leader that greeted his "outing" on *Newswatch* was described by one Downing Street source as "the most significant thing that has happened for a long time, both politically and sociologically". Mr Blair has, it is said, discussed Mr Mandelson's position on the issue, but the minister is still anxious to place it firmly in the background. The generally welcoming reception for Nick Brown's decision to come out has, however, altered the calculation. It may no longer be unthinkable that modernising Britain may culminate in electing a gay Prime Minister.

Mr Mandelson has, meanwhile, been courting coverage in the most unlikely quarters. His decision to drop in for dinner at the home of *Madame Norman*, the *Guardian* diarist and merciless tormentor of the minister, had most observers assuming the news was a joke. It wasn't. One of Mr Mandelson's friends described the event as the PR equivalent of getting the *Sun* to back Labour. "Maybe more significant". Another, from No 10, said: "Peter has obviously decided to mend fences with everyone he has ever fallen out with. It's going to take a long time."

Even if Mr Mandelson has decided he wants to be friends with everyone, how will he overcome the most obvious stumbling block, namely that the Labour leader is chosen by the members, not a media-political elite? One version of events could go something like this. By the time of the next election victory Mr Mandelson has spent three steady years at the DTI, during which the introduction of the minimum wage, working time directive and workplace rights package has earned him the nickname "the workers' friend". Mr Blair makes him Foreign Secretary. Meanwhile, the party moves into its next phase of internal modernisation. The link with the trade unions is cut and the electoral college used to elect leaders is abolished and replaced by one-member-one-vote.

After five years strutting the world stage, Mr Mandelson looks like a statesman. He has been at the heart of Britain's entry into the single currency and has cemented Britain's role as the European Union's unofficial leader. Following a third election victory Mr Blair dies and, with a party membership which boasts few remaining traditionalists and is 80 per cent middle class, Mr Mandelson slides effortlessly into No 10. Over-imaginative, perhaps. But *impossible*? Six years ago he was not even an MP.

Last week Mr Blair made a little noticed speech to sixth-formers. In drumming home his message about the need for permanent revolution at the heart of the Labour Party, the Prime Minister predicted that when it came to his retirement, he would be replaced by a moderniser who made him look positively old-fashioned. Whom could he have had in mind?

Simon Jenkins is away.

### Alan Coren



### My bitter-sweet remembrance of citrus husbandry

It is Armistice Day. It is a very big day indeed. It is the day I bring the lemon tree in. I do not mind, bring the lemon tree in because it is Armistice Day — I do not, that is, bring it in as a private memorial pact, the lemon tree does not signify some personal ritual homage to the glorious fallen, it does not, as it were, commemorate a gallant grandpa who copped it in the Dardanelles, few poppies there, in Turkish fields the lemons blow, let us therefore wear the lemon with pride, place it in the hall, stand silently beside it between 11am and 11.02. It has nothing to do with any of that: I bring it in because it is November 11, and in my gardener's diary the duties scribbled for that day are "inspect rhizomes for rot, dredge pond, drain mowersump, take lemon tree in".

This fourth injunction has been there since 1993, the year the lemon tree arrived. It arrived in June, the birthday gift of a friend, and it arrived in a big, ribbed terra-cotta pot. It was a sturdy little plant, 3ft high, a mass of glistening healthy leaves and, dangling among them, four little green lemons the size of brazil nuts.

There was also a fifth dangling item, a booklet assuring me that if I followed the instructions on citrus husbandry, to include bringing it indoors in early November and taking it out again in late May, it would not only give me many years of wondrous fragrance when it blossomed, but also many years of lemons when it fruited.

So my generous friend and I toasted it in gins and tonics containing emblematic slices of lemon, to furnish the tree with a clear idea of where its future duties lay, and I promised him that the next time he stopped by for a snort, the lemon bobbing in his glass would have been fresh-plucked. It was a promise I was unable to keep, however, because when he came in August, the four lemons had grown neither bigger nor yellower; although I told him that they unquestionably had. After the third drink, emboldened as one gets, he said that he couldn't be sure, but he thought that one of the lemons had actually grown smaller. I laughed, quite a long laugh actually, and said he was mistaken. I had a ruler. I had measured all of them, they were coming on a treat.

By the time he returned in November, the tree was inside. I had carried it in on the 11th, a week earlier, and I was now pretty well recovered, except for a slight twinge in the neck whenever I looked to the left. He remarked that the tree had only three lemons on it. It was one of them in our drinks, and I said yes, and he said, funny, I could swear it's the smallest that's missing, and I said, yes, it had been, but it had suddenly sprung up, rather the way children do, so I had plucked it in his honour, would he like a nut? He ate the nut, a cashew that, poignantly, bore a strong resemblance, in size and consistency, to the fourth lemon; which had, as you will have guessed, fallen off while I was struggling in with the tree. As we sat there, a few leaves also fell off, and he looked at me, but I said it was autumn, they did that, it was in the book.

Which was true. It was also true that the book said the leaves would come back in May, after I had taken it outside again, but only about a dozen did, although the three lemons were still there. Somewhat smaller by now, and greyer than I recalled lemons being, but it was probably just a stage they were going through. I said to my friend at my June birthday party. Whether this was true, neither of us had the chance to discover, because another guest brushed past the tree on his way to get a drink, and the three lemons fell off. When they hit the terrace, they sounded like stones. Are you sure you're following the instructions, said my friend, and I said, to the letter, another week of sun and they'd have been enormous, but look there's a blossom. And there was: but the next day, as I watered it, a bee climbed into the blossom and it fell off.

That was four years ago, since when no blossom at all has appeared, and, of course, no lemons. But, even as you read this, I shall be hugging it in again, because, it still has a couple of curly leaves on it. Could be the last time, though. All things considered, I rather think that it shall not grow old as they are left grow old.

JASPER GERARD

# Lord's gong

EIGHTY years after hanging up his tin hat, Lord Denning is to be honoured by the French for his efforts in the trenches during the First World War. Daniel Bernard, the French Ambassador, is to bring Britain's most whimsical judge a Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur, in place of Gérard Depardieu (pictured with Denning) who may be stripped of his title due to his boorishness. The former Master of the Rolls, 99 not out, is among 300 surviving British veterans to be honoured. His stint in the Royal Engineers from 1917 to 1919 qualified him for France's highest gong. The ambassador will drop by Denning's Hampshire pad to honour him. "I am very pleased they have recognised the value we youngsters gave during 1918," he tells me. "It was a critical year and we only just won. We were a group of youngsters but we held the line."



A Frenchy confirms that Denning's award pays tribute to his valour. I hope no one recalls his secret for long life. "By eating plain English food," he replied. "I don't want any of that French stuff."

THE ultimate horror Christmas gift: It Could Be You. An Autobiography by Jeremy Beadle.

Luncheon meet THOSE two old muckers, Baroness Thatcher and Sir Edward



here, but actually turned out to house the graffe's late sister Fawcley has learnt of a disused house in the bowels of the Natural History Museum. An extensive examination is planned.

### Tactical talk

IN THE midst of the Balkans skirmish, General Sir Michael Rose helped his son to win a wager. The commander of the UN force in Bosnia was asked by James, then up at Durham, to insert the word "blatant" into a television interview. If he did, the general's son would win £25 worth of beer from the Bacchanalian Barons, his drinking club.

A few days later, Rose was quoted on TV, describing yep, a "blatant and flagrant disregard for the Nato ultimatum".

LATEST academic spin-off from the emerging science of PR: "reputation management". This important discovery was made by one Jonathan Hill, who is going into PR after managing the reputation of Mr Populor, John Major.

### Fatal blow

CHER has been told to die elsewhere. The chanteuse has dropped hints that she would like to call it a day at the Père Lachaise cemetery in Paris — retirement home in the ground for those old crumbles Oscar Wilde, Maria Callas, Jim Morrison and the middle classes of Paris — and



"It's even worse on Railtrack"

hoped she would qualify as owner of a holiday home in Provence. "No," says the man at the gate. "You must live or die in Paris. We need proof — usually three months' telephone bills. The rules cannot be changed for anyone."

LOVE continues to bloom between those two wannabe Dick Whittingtons, Ken Livingstone and Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, united by frustration with their ungrateful and respective parties. They arrived together at the BBC yesterday. Bemused snappers saw Jeffrey point to his rival: "Go on, take some pictures of my deputy." A modest Livingstone pointed to Archer: "No, no, please snap my lady mayores."

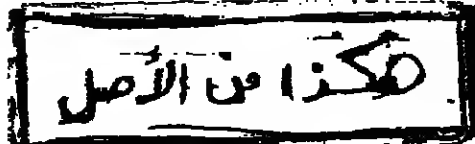
### Legal battle

LONG, troubled nights for the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill is fearful as law lords bat around his ruling that General Pinochet enjoys immunity from prosecution. Friends say Bingham would take it as a humiliation if his decision that the general could be packed off back to Chile was overturned by the five presiding lords. "He is very tense," says a large gavel close to Bingham. "He has a very rocky relationship with the law lords and is worried they



will go the other way." Not as fearful as Pinochet, one imagines.

ARCHIE NORMAN has recruited Celine Boltrun (above), George Clooney's fragile French girlfriend, to Asda. After my note about the supermarket chairman offering his store's mixed-fibre shirts to his chum Francis Moude, news emerges of this more inviting model. "I like simplicity," says Ms Boltrun, swiftly growing accustomed to the economical product.







## TOO VAGUE

The Tory leader can learn a little from Portillo

William Hague chose yesterday to slap Michael Portillo down for offering him advice. Mr Hague may have felt piqued that a friend should choose to counsel him publicly in a newspaper rather than privately by telephone. But what should worry Mr Hague is not the method, but the resonance of the message. The former Defence Secretary's article attracted attention because it reflected a broad unease with the Tory leadership. Those who most wish Mr Hague to succeed have been given the greatest cause for concern by recent events. Mr Portillo is right to say that the Tories "must find their voice". Alternately too shrill and too silent, like a choirboy whose voice is breaking, the Tory leader must develop a mature tone and new themes if voters are to be tempted back.

It was on Europe that Mr Portillo chose to offer advice, urging the Conservatives to build on their resounding internal vote in favour of keeping the pound. Mr Hague showed leadership in facing down his critics within his party, and established authority for his policy. But what has he done with it? The campaign against the single currency is divided. Competing groups, and egos, with different messages have so far only re-inforced the unfortunate impression that Euroscepticism is fractious and disorganised. In contrast, the pro-EMU campaign, although not without its problems, operates with a stealthy coherence that should goad the Tories to action.

The lesson of past political successes is that victory goes to campaigns coherently led from the centre. The anti-EMU alliance should be as broad as possible, but the Tories could be more assertive in giving it shape without squeezing people out.

They certainly have room to be more assertive in deploying what patronage they have left so as to promote the sceptic cause. In the past few days Mr Hague has used his right to nominate a successor to Sir Leon Brittan as European Commissioner to advance the claims of Sir Alistair Goodlad, a Clarkeite europhile. There is room in the Conservative Party for a range of views on Europe, but when it comes to choosing a Tory voice in Brussels Mr Hague should have the courage to nominate someone more his own mould. If Mr Blair accepted such a nominee, the

Tories would have a powerful advocate at the Commission. And if Mr Blair rejected a sceptical candidate, a political opportunity would have been created to emphasise an issue to Mr Hague's advantage and paint the Prime Minister as improperly partisan.

It is not only abroad that the Tories have flinched from the fight. The party leadership's decision to allow Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare an unimpeded run at the nomination for London's mayor is an abdication of responsibility. Lord Archer has many talents, but a flair for fiction is not what is required to run the capital city.

The Tories do not have many opportunities to make the weather, and show they have learnt the lessons of defeat. There appears to be a complacency at the highest level which attributes Labour's success to spin and believes the electorate will return to their Tory roots in time. They will not, unless they are given new and positive reasons to return.

The Tories are not even making the most of those opportunities which Labour gives them. When the Government showed immaturity in its handling of the arrest of General Pinochet the Tories were silent. Faced with factory closures they have been shrill in denunciation, but silent on alternatives. The Tories may not wish to take a position, so far in advance of the election, on detailed economic policy. But on the broad questions there is precious little evidence of a coherent lead. Should the State be smaller? If so then how can that be reconciled with indications, repeated yesterday by John Redwood, that health and education spending should increase?

Mr Hague is, apparently, exercised about the Tories' failure to get their message across. New committees have been set up; new figures are to be hired. But, instead of worrying about how messages are communicated, whether by Mr Portillo or himself, Mr Hague should worry about what is to be said. New projects which engage and excite are required. Unless new reasons are advanced to support the Tories, the party will only resent the movement away from traditional positions on issues such as reform of the Lords. The failure to take risks now in re-defining the Tories would be the biggest risk of all.

## BREAKING WAVE

Change sweeps over the 'remote Bermudas'

Bermuda is Britain's oldest colony, first settled when Sir George Somers was shipwrecked there en route to Virginia in 1609. For almost 400 years, Marvell's "remote Bermudas" of "golden lamps in a green night" have echoed as poetically in the British imagination as the "hollow seas" rolling onto its shores. Its Assembly, which first met in 1620, is the oldest legislature in the Commonwealth outside Britain. Bermuda yesterday saw a momentous change: a general election has swept to power for the first time the Progressive Labour Party, ousting the United Bermuda Party which has held office for the 30 years that party politics have been allowed.

In itself, political change legitimised by a turn-out of 81 per cent is a sign of a vibrant democracy. But many Bermudians are anxious. For the PLP victory has brought into focus two issues that could undermine the settled prosperity of this Atlantic jewel: racial divisions and the question of independence. The PLP's core support comes from Bermuda's blacks, whose lot it is committed to improve. But there are fears, held not only by racists but by many in the black majority, that the inexperienced party will mismanage the economy, especially the vital financial sector.

The party has embraced independence as an essential route not only to self-determination but to a more equal society, and campaigned hard against the "British" establishment. Independence, however, has been a less potent vote-winner than in

Britain's younger former colonies. In a landmark referendum in 1995, which turned largely on Bermuda's economic prospects as an independent nation, voters overwhelmingly chose to remain one of Britain's dwindling number of dependent territories — now renamed overseas territories. The vote was a slap in the face for the then Premier, Sir John Swan, who resigned. Even the PLP has opted for caution, promising to take the matter no further in this Parliament.

The issue could be overtaken by Britain's proposals to restore full citizenship to all its overseas territories. For Bermudians this opens up prospects of education, employment and visa-free travel throughout the European Union. But there is a price, which many resent. Britain is insisting on tighter financial regulation and more transparency, to stop money laundering and to police the shadowy frontier between tax avoidance and tax evasion.

The Government would be wise not to gamble that Bermuda's offshore industry would do better on its own. It has enough to do to meet its pledges of social change without stoking fears about its competence or opening new racial divisions. Bermuda, with 60,000 people, accounts for a third of the overseas territories' population. A smooth transition will set an important example to other territories. Bermuda should be able to combine the benefits of extended self-government with the prospect of regaining full British citizenship.

## MAN IN TIGHTS

The Lord Chancellor should be allowed some Lycra relief

If sitting on the Woolsack were not back-breaking enough, Lord Irvine of Lairg has another grouse. His buckled shoes pinch, his tights ladder, his breeches rub and his long wig weighs "an absolute ton". But even more damage is done to his (not inconsiderable) dignity: "For male adults of sound mind," he says, "the days of breeches and tights and buckled shoes should really go."

Lord Irvine's mind is more than sound: it is very fine. So is the Lord Chancellor's ceremonial uniform, with its lavishly gold-braided gown, ruffled collar and cuffs, and wig that extends well below his shoulders. This regalia he will continue to wear for all formal occasions.

The rub comes with his "everyday" wear of wig, black gown, breeches, tights and buckles. The Lord Chancellor proposes, like a newsreader behind a desk in suit jacket, tie and jeans, to dispense with flummery for his bottom half, while retaining it for the top. He wants to be allowed to wear normal black trousers, socks and shoes instead.

This is not so much traditional values in a modern setting as modern gear in a traditional setting. And Lord Irvine has a point. Women are used to wearing tights all day but men, in these matters, are the

weaker sex. The Lord Chancellor should certainly be saved the embarrassment of having to bulk-buy large black opaques at his local Boots. For he cannot afford to risk the scorn he would endure if he sent his driver out for them instead.

Lord Irvine is keen on creature comforts. He has already "modernised" his flat — in estate-agent parlance, if not in choice of wallpaper. His predecessor but one, Lord Hailsham, described the "austere discomfort" of the apartment in Lord Gardiner's day, so this Lord Chancellor has turned the place around. He has also won the right to turn his back on the monarch and walk forwards instead of backwards after handing her the Queen's Speech. Only Lord Hailsham, because of his arthritis, has recently been given such an exemption. Lord Irvine's affliction is psychological rather than physical: he suffers injury not to joints but to pride.

But on his uniform, the current Lord Chancellor has an excellent case. The garb he has to wear today makes him melt into the furniture: he looks more like part of the House than part of the Lords. Perhaps he has discovered a duty to distance himself from predecessors such as Cardinal Wolsey. As that illustrious Lord Chancellor might well have said: "Off with his tights!"

## Concern over drug testing at work

From Mr Anthony Morton-Hoopar

Sir, Dr Patrick Dixon enthuses about the efficacy of workplace drug testing (Feature, "Why we must have drug tests at work", November 5). Sensibly, he acknowledges the importance of education and the primacy of deterrence over punishment.

The experience of drug testing in sport offers some guidance and warnings to businesses, and also schools, where drug testing is being introduced. The world of sport has struggled for decades to get its policies right and that world is as much infected by the persistent errors and injustices committed by over-zealous governing bodies who fail to accept the limitations and fallibilities of their drug testing policies as by the activities of the cheating player or athlete.

It is only when the consequences of those errors and injustices are considered that sufficient attention will be paid to the need for proper safeguards. The only system of testing deserving public confidence is one which balances toughness of purpose with scrupulous fairness. Drug testing procedures must protect the innocent, the whole process must have integrity (errors in sample collection will determine the analytical result), there can be innocent explanations for microscopic traces of banned compounds, and there must be recourse for the victim of the "false positive".

Drug testing in the workplace and in our schools may become the norm. However, if the errors and misjudgments seen in the sports world are repeated by businesses and schools there will be a substantial risk of failing to realise the underlying and legitimate objectives of the policy and a loss of public confidence.

Yours sincerely,  
TONY MORTON-HOOPAR,  
Mishcon de Reya (solicitors),  
21 Southampton Row, WC1B 5HS,  
November 6.

From Mr Stephen Young

Sir, Calling it a "huge success", Patrick Dixon tries his best to paint a friendly face on mass drug testing, now an institution here in America.

He offers little consideration, however, of employees who have done nothing to provoke such a degrading procedure. And what of the fears of employees hesitant to reveal medical conditions to employers? Drug screening can detect legal drugs, as well as illegal drugs. Innocent employees can experience false positives, and drug-using employees may know how to generate false negatives.

Perhaps there are fewer positive drug test results now, as Dixon claims, but it would be ridiculous to assume that the process has had any actual impact on the American drug problem. Drug testing has been a success only as a business, profiting from a form of alchemy by which, at last, urine can be turned into gold with little expense, as long as an employee's dignity and privacy are overlooked as costs.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN YOUNG,  
990 Borden Drive,  
Roselle, Illinois 60012,  
theyoungfamily@worldnet.att.net  
November 7.

## School inspections

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers

Sir, Your leading article of November 4, "Commonsense and nonsense", misrepresents the NUT's position on school inspections. Far from ruling out independent inspections, the union has always seen them as important, but has argued for a balance between external inspection and internal evaluation.

Indeed, the Chief Inspector of Schools, in his address to the NUT conference on November 3, stressed the importance of internal evaluation; and the government minister, Charles Clarke, stated at the conference that there was a total consensus on the need for a balance between the two.

Yours sincerely,  
DOUG McAVOY,  
General Secretary,  
National Union of Teachers,  
Hamilton House,  
Mabledon Place, WC1H 9BD,  
November 4.

## Debt paid

From the Ambassador of Belgium

Sir, Your Diarist reports ("Battle lines", September 26) that the Belgian Government wrote "recently" to the eighth Duke of Wellington about annual payments to him in the wake of Waterloo, pointing out "it might be time to end the practice". Actually, we have — ten years ago. An amicable settlement with the Duke commuted the small annual payment into a lump sum, which took the form of a piece of land.

All these years Belgium has complied with an agreement (from 1817) that predates its own existence (1830). A true sign of respect for the first Duke.

Yours sincerely,  
LODE WILLEMS,  
Embassy of Belgium,  
103 Eaton Square, SW1W 9AB,  
November 5.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Support for a royal remarriage

From the General Secretary of the Modern Churchpeople's Union

Sir, I notice that some of our episcopal Fathers in God are beginning to discuss the possibility of a remarriage of Prince Charles and Mrs Parker Bowles in church (report, November 6; letter, November 7).

In this respect they are following the lead of at least a good few of the clergy of the Church of England, hundreds of whom, like me, already conduct collectively thousands of remarriages in parish churches every year.

We do so in order to meet pastoral need and to represent the Christian Gospel as one which has at its heart the concept of forgiveness and new beginnings.

Should Charles and Camilla be looking for a venue and a minister to perform the ceremony there is no need for them to go to Crathie Kirk, I will be pleased to oblige. Further, and no doubt much later, I will also be glad to accept and welcome King Charles III with his consort as a happily married Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

Yours sincerely,  
NICHOLAS HENDERSON,  
General Secretary,  
Modern Churchpeople's Union,  
25 Birch Grove, W3 9SP,  
November 6.

From Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain

Sir, Of course Prince Charles and Mrs Parker Bowles should be allowed to marry if they so wish, and with every blessing by religious establishments.

It would be more honest to formalise their relationship, rather than maintain the current pretence, while a happily married monarch will function more effectively than an uneasily single one.

Moreover, a royal wedding would reinforce the institution of marriage, as well as provide a better role model for the tens of thousands of other divorcees in Britain.

In addition, it is axiomatic to both Christianity and Judaism that misdemeanours can be repented and people released from the albatrosses around their necks. In this case, both individuals have surely paid the price of enough personal unhappiness and public condemnation.

It is more religious to be charitable and forgiving than to bear grudges and force others to remain in the past. When the time comes, I for one shall have no hesitation in saying "Long live Queen Camilla".

Yours faithfully,  
JONATHAN ROMAIN,  
Maidenhead Synagogue,  
9 Boyl Hill Avenue,  
Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 4ET,  
November 9.

### Ever more worthy of remembrance

From Mr Leonard Manasseh

Sir, The decision by the Republic of France to award the Légion d'honneur, not only to her own surviving veterans of the Great War, but now to the few remaining British survivors as well (letter, November 7) is thoughtful and generous on this eightieth anniversary of that terrible war: a gesture of truly Gallic imagination.

Yours faithfully,  
LEONARD MANASSEH,  
6 Bacon's Lane,  
Highgate Village, N6 6BL,  
November 8.

From the Vice-President of The Bevin Boys Association

Sir, The Bevin Boys Association is greatly indebted to Lord Mason of Barnsley and Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin (letter, November 6; photograph, early editions, and report, November 9) for making it possible for a contingent of ex-war-time Bevin Boys to parade at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. This was indeed a milestone in history.

Special thanks must also go to London Transport for the generous part they played in housing our members on this memorable occasion.

Yours,  
WARWICK H. TAYLOR,  
Vice-President,  
The Bevin Boys Association,  
33 Sussex Street, Winchester,  
Hampshire SO23 8TG,  
November 9.

From Mr John Graham

Sir, With reference to the Bevin Boys, the late T. F. Cattle, a teacher at Eton

College, wrote some verses in their praise.

I recall them as follows:  
To be an airman, that is why  
He joined the ATC,  
But he's a miner now, because  
His number ends in three.  
He does not lose his sense of fun,  
He does not peak or pine,  
He merely says, "Were mine the choice,  
The choice would not be mine."

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN GRAHAM,  
21 Warwick Avenue, W9 2PS,  
November 9.

From Mr Andrew Rowe,  
MP for Faversham and  
Mid Kent (Conservative)

Sir, My late uncle told me the following story which illuminates the ceremony at the Cenotaph yesterday.

He was serving on a sector in France where every afternoon German artillery shelled the road between the front and staff HQ. The bombardment started at 3pm precisely and lasted for exactly 30 minutes.

The staff required a report on the situation to be delivered to HQ at 4pm precisely. The result was that several young officers were killed. On one of my uncle's visits he suggested that perhaps the staff could receive the report at a time which would avoid the barrage.

"I shall choose to forget that I ever heard that," said the staff officer. "It is the most lily-livered thing I have ever heard: you are very fortunate not to be put on a charge." And so the procedure continued.

My uncle later won a Military Cross for rescuing a soldier from a burning ammunition store.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW ROWE,  
House of Commons,  
November 9.

### Dome cash 'could transform the arts'

From Mrs Doris Lessing

Sir, What Peter Mandelson doesn't understand (Matthew Parris's sketch, November 10) is that opposition to the Dome is because people know that the money spent on it could transform, for instance, the arts — which is what this country is really good at. This Government, like the one before it, is unable to see the arts as anything more than a whingeing Oliver Twist.

The theatre is dying. When these short-sighted people are standing over the corpse of what is admired by the whole world, we will hear them say — as we have so many blundering governments in various contexts: "Oh dear, we made a mistake."

In New York a theatre died recently from lack of funding. Within a year the cafes, restaurants, dress shops, food shops, beauty parlours and car firms had gone, and the whole area has returned to its pre-theatre state of dereliction. "Oh dear, we made a mistake."

Yours faithfully,  
DORIS LESSING,  
24 Grandd Gardens, NW6 1HG,  
November 10.

### St James's development

From Councillor Alan Bradley

Sir, Mr Dominic Elliot and his co-signatories write (letter, November 5) of the "unique concentration" of historic buildings in St James's. Westminster Council recognises that the special character of St James's Street needs to be protected. That is why we recently refused permission for yet another restaurant, as their recent proliferation in the street now threatens that character.

However, the proposed 120-bedroom first-class hotel in the old Bath Club at No 74 will bring back into entirely suitable use this superb Grade II\* listed building. Its magnificent interiors will be faithfully restored to their original appearance. A new staircase will sympathetically ally the best of modern design to the revitalisation of the old. Local residents' amenity will be protected by conditions and legal agreement.

My committee warmly welcomed the scheme, which has the support of English Heritage, and granted permission last night.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN BRADLEY  
(Chairman, Environment and Planning Committee),  
City of Westminster,  
PO Box 240,  
Westminster City Hall,  
64 Victoria Street, SW1E 6QP,  
November 6.

### Hastings battleground

From Councillor John Southam

Sir, Professor Richard Holmes wrote (letter, November 5) "Let us hope that the [Rother District Council] planning committee holds its ground" against an application by English Heritage to build a road on the site of the Battle of Hastings. I should make clear that with an English Heritage site it is the Secretary of State who determines the application — the planning committee are simply consultees.

The proposal concerns continued use of a track that runs along the edge of the field and has been a regular vehicular access to the walled garden by English Heritage for years. The café and exhibition centre are to be placed within the garden and hidden from the battlefield behind these walls.

In any event, English Heritage has now withdrawn the application to enable a better understanding by those who wish to comment.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN SOUTHAM  
(Chairman, Rother District Council Planning Committee),  
1 Tanyard Cottages, Battle Hill,  
Battle, East Sussex TN33 0BH,  
claverham.edu@msn.com  
November 5.

### No 10 briefing

From Vice-Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly

Sir, Is your Letters page, usually full of interesting views on important matters, so lacking today in contributions that we have to be subjected to approximately 13 column inches of Alastair Campbell trying, with little success, to justify a major cock-up in his news management?

Yours truly,  
LOUIS LE BAILLY,  
Garlands House, St Tudy,  
Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 3NN,  
November 9.

### From start to finish

From Mr John Keevill

Sir, Rather than learning how to cook, eat and wash up (letters, October 30 and November 3), I believe your correspondents would benefit most from a short, technical television programme called *How to switch off*.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN KEEVILL,  
Forest Oak, Milton Road,  
Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 1DD,  
john@towerleaving.co.uk  
November 3.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk







OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR MARGARET GOWING

Margaret Gowing, CBE, FRS, FBA, founding Professor of the History of Science, Oxford University, died on November 7 aged 77. She was born on April 25, 1921.

Margaret Gowing enjoyed the rare distinction — shared with Joseph Needham and Karl Popper — of being a Fellow of both the British Academy and the Royal Society. Her remarkable reputation was made in four different fields: as an official economic historian; as an authority on public records; as the doyenne of nuclear historians; and as Oxford's first Professor of the History of Science.

Born Margaret Elliott, the youngest of three clever children, she grew up poor in West Kensington. She was educated at the Portobello Road Elementary School and Christ's Hospital. She won a scholarship, which supported her sick and unemployed father as well as taking her to LSE where she gained a first-class BSc in economics.

During the war she worked in the Board of Trade, 1941-45. Her first great opportunity came shortly after her marriage to Donald Gowing in 1944, when she went to work for Sir Keith Hancock at the Cabinet Office on the new war histories project. There she wrote a brilliant synopsis volume, *British War Economy* (1949), with Hancock, who rated her contribution very highly. It was followed in 1952 by *Civil Industry and Trade* (1952), with E. L. Hargreaves.

During the next two years she was a member of Sir James Grigg's committee on departmental records. (Towards the end of its work, there was a race between the report and the expected Gowing baby.) The Grigg report of 1954 resulted in the 1958 Public Records Act, which created a modern public records system for the United Kingdom.

That 1958 Act was to have an unforeseeable but decisive influence on the rest of Gowing's life. One body not subject to the Act, because it was not a government department, was the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, set up in 1954. Conscious of the historic value of its records, however, it elected to be scheduled under the Act, and then sought an archivist/historian. Gowing was appointed in August 1959. The work proved to be

more interesting than she could ever have imagined.

The task, though, was daunting, for, as she often said, she "didn't know an atom from a molecule". However, she was soon meeting and conversing with such legendary scientists as Niels Bohr, Sir James Chadwick and Rudolf Peierls, and building up a close circle of scientist friends. The UKAEA had opened up to her a virgin field for research, with privileged access to a rich and unexplored store of primary (and still classified) official sources, and she seized this unrivalled opportunity with both hands. Her revelatory book, *Britain and Atomic Energy 1939-1945*, was a triumphant success when it appeared in 1964.

In 1966 Gowing took up a post as Reader in Economic History at the University of Kent, and remained at Canterbury until 1973, continuing to work for the UKAEA part-time. It was a punishing workload, especially for a woman with a young family. The next book, *Independence and Deterrence* (written with Lorna Arnold), was in two massive volumes, covering Britain's nuclear policy-making and policy execution from 1945 to 1952. It was novel in its combination of international and national policy, political decision-making, scientific ideas and technological nuts and bolts.

Published in 1974, it was widely reviewed and greatly acclaimed at home and abroad; it at once became indispensable in its field and remains a classic, combining academic rigour with strong narrative and a lively, direct and highly readable style.

In 1973 (when *Independence and Deterrence* was completed but not yet published) Oxford University established a new chair in the history of science. Persuaded by a scientist friend to apply, Gowing did so with some diffidence, not expecting to be short-listed. But the university made an inspired choice and appointed her as Oxford's first Professor of the History of Science. It was another splendid opportunity, but a formidable one — for a woman, an "outsider", and a non-scientist. She would have to explore a new environment and master wide new areas of study, at the same time continuing to work as the UKAEA historian, commuting regularly to London.

She met this manifold challenge with characteristic courage, ability and an apparently unlimited capacity for work. After she had overcome the initial difficulties, she greatly enjoyed her time in Oxford, and in the 14 years until her retirement she built up a strong tradition of history of science, embracing its political, social and technological aspects.



Gowing: in the nuclear industry she found a rich, untapped subject for historical research

Her interest in records continued. For eight years, 1974-82, she served on the Advisory Council on Public Records and for three, 1976-79, on the BBC Archives Advisory Committee. With her friend

Nicholas Kurti in Oxford, concerned by the posthumous loss and destruction of many scientists' personal papers, she worked hard to establish the Contemporary Scientific Archives Centre and for 13 years, 1973-86, was its honorary director. (The centre is now at the University of Bath.)

By the late 1970s, with other contemporary historians, she felt that the 1958 Grigg system needed review. The Government set up an inquiry on public records under Sir Duncan Wilson in 1978, and Gowing was one of its three

members. She worked tirelessly on it for two years, travelling widely despite a painful back injury which obliged her to tour the United States in a heavy plaster. The Wilson committee reported in 1980, and showed itself a worthy successor to the Grigg committee of which she had been a youthful member almost thirty years before. She was appointed CBE in 1981.

Demands on her apparently boundless energy continued to grow — papers, articles and reviews; many important public lectures; working visits

overseas — to the United States, France, West Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Japan, Australia and Israel. Perhaps understandably, there was no sequel to *Independence and Deterrence*. She worked quickly, always walked at top speed, and relaxed and rested little. She was generous with her time, could seldom if ever refuse anything that she was asked to undertake, and work was unremitting. Her former summer holidays in Provence with friends from LSE days ceased, and nothing took their place.

Of her many activities, the one that she most enjoyed was her association with the National Portrait Gallery for several years as a trustee. It was probably her best and truest recreation. She was also on the governing body of the Imperial War Museum, where she made a stand against museum charges, especially because of their effect on poor families, and resigned in protest when charges were introduced.

As a founder member of the Campaign for the Advancement of State Education in the early 1960s, she took part in official delegations (meeting Sir Edward Boyle, a Conservative Minister of Education whom she often spoke at public meetings, once sharing a platform with Margaret Thatcher, then a rising young MP.

An active Labour Party supporter and passionate socialist all her adult life, Gowing was totally opposed to Conservative politics in general and to Margaret Thatcher's political ideas in particular. But, to her amusement rather than irritation, people noticed a marked resemblance between the two women — the high forehead, hooded blue eyes, strong nose, small pretty mouth, and pointed chin.

There were surprising similarities of temperament, too. After a working lifetime of high endeavour and distinguished achievement, Margaret Gowing retired in 1986, leaving a lasting legacy to scholarship in her published work, her contribution to public records policy and scientific archives; and her teaching. Sadly, her retirement years became overshadowed by declining health, which left her deeply frustrated. Her husband died in 1969 but she is survived by her two sons.

LANCE WALTON

Lance Walton, orthopaedic surgeon, died on October 15 aged 96. He was born on March 15, 1902.

LANCE WALTON was an orthopaedic surgeon who developed a special understanding of muscular problems through his work with polio victims. Patients swore by him.

When the famed American polio expert Sister Kenny visited England at the height of the epidemic of 1947, she spent a lot of time with Walton and his patients at Victoria Hospital, Woking. Later she arranged a fellowship for Walton to study with her at the Kenny Hospital in Minneapolis. This resulted in his specialising in the treatment of polio for the length of the epidemic.

He realised that the muscles most commonly affected by polio are those which most often suffer in old age. He believed this to be due to the circulation of these muscles being the most easily disturbed. In treating older patients he would treat them if they were polio cases and would adapt and apply similar treatment.

In the process he developed methods — which he later found to be similar to Eastern medicine — which convinced him that the tense areas of the body are linked to the organs and that troubled organs such as bowels or urinary systems can be relieved by treating the areas of tension.

Lancelot Henry Frederick Walton's interest in orthopaedics had begun at the age of 13, when he had become an associate collector for the Lord Mayor Treloar's Crippled Children's Hospital at Alton, Hampshire. After studying at St Thomas' in London, he was invited by the eminent orthopaedic surgeon Housey Bristow to be his house surgeon. On his first afternoon Bristow said to him, "You do this operation," which, surprising himself, he successfully did.

He was then asked to take over as locum surgical unit house surgeon. During his six weeks' break, he studied as clinical assistant with Dr James B. Mennell, one of the earliest manipulators. He was intrigued to find that while many of the staff talked of Mennell as "that quack", they secretly took their relatives to him, for he seemed invariably able to overcome otherwise stubborn joint problems. But

as ill-luck would have it, Mennell and his assistant retired ill within a month, leaving Walton carrying the whole department.

When Mennell returned to duty after a year, Walton became his new chief assistant. He also attended classes at the Physiotherapy School at St Thomas', and before long he had mastered the unusual combination of orthopaedics, physical medicine and manipulation, and his remarkable methods of treatment became noted for their success, particularly with problems of the neck, back and spine.

Frequently he found that he was able to relieve seemingly unassociated problems simultaneously. Perhaps this is what caused Sister Kenny to single him out to bring to



England her radical polio treatments which eased so much of the suffering from that appalling disease.

In addition to his many hospital appointments, Lance Walton was in private practice for many years, and after retiring he continued to treat patients at his home in Alderney. Many would fly over from the mainland, convinced that he was the only person able to treat them satisfactorily.

Much of his physical strength lasted almost to the end of his days, perhaps due to his love of building walls of all kinds. He had built his own treatment rooms adjoining his family home at Walton-on-Thames. The walls for these rooms resisted destruction when, after his departure, it was demolished. They had to be dynamited. The dry-stone walls he built in Alderney in his later years will remain a memorial to his lifelong hobby and a reminder of his family's nickname: the Wallnut.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Dawn, and by their four children.

RUMER GODDEN

Rumer Godden, OBE, writer, died on November 8 aged 90. She was born on December 10, 1907.

Rumer Godden always felt herself "a divided person — in India homesick for Europe, in Europe homesick for India". Although born in Sussex, she went with her parents to India when she was six months old. Her father, who had a great interest in philology, worked for the Inland Navigation Company, and the family lived in Bengal, on the banks of the Megna (which was to inspire her best novel, *The River*). She was often to return to India, spending a good proportion of her life there.

She wrote some 60 books, including plays, novels, verse and short stories, most of them marked by a heartwarming optimism. Both her serious and her

lighter, romantic novels are concerned with the transitory nature of human experience. Her interest in this is counterbalanced by a feeling for roots and traditions, for the continuity of families and old houses — most satisfyingly in *A Fugue in Time* (1945) and in *China Court* (1961), which spans five generations.

Perhaps her most successful books are those in which she evokes the atmosphere of India through all the senses: her writing is vivid with detail of smells, textures, light, flowers, noises and tactile experiences. She celebrates the fullness of Indian life, but also probes the individual's relationship with society, and the conflicts between cultures. Although she said that she wrote first and researched afterwards, she had a healthy regard for fact. "In fiction you can't afford to be facetious," she once said.

Margaret Rumer Godden was the second of four sisters, and remembered from her pre-school days in Assam that if they played with their dolls out of doors, the monkeys would dart down from the trees and snatch them to toy with among themselves. In 1912 Rumer and her elder sister were left in London with their grandmother and four maiden aunts to be properly brought up, but with the coming of the Zeppelins they were shipped back to India. There, their mother read them poetry and took them each summer to a different part of the country, deepening the girls' love of Indian life. Already Godden was writing poems and stories. Precoziously, she wrote her first autobiography when she was eight.

Once the war was over, Godden returned to England. After false starts at several schools, she was educated at

Moir House, in Eastbourne, where she boasted that she had had a book of poems published. "Who paid," asked the vicar-principal, guessing correctly, "the publisher or your mother?" That was the end of the boasting, though out of the itch to write, and Godden was given special tuition in the craft, which she remembered with gratitude: "Grammar, grammar, grammar, all the time. It was wonderful!"

The individual tuition at Moira House included précis, criticism, and paraphrasing Times leaders in the form of sonnets, and Godden was always grateful for the care that had been taken in teaching her the proper use of the English language.

But it was not as a writer that she started out. After training as a ballet dancer and teacher in London, Godden went to Calcutta in 1930 to start a ballet school for English and Indian children. This was a move greeted with horror, not only because it broke racial taboos but because many dancing schools were covered for brothels. Nevertheless, Godden ran the school for 20 years with the help of a sister. Reading Forster's *A Passage to India* had awakened her social conscience about the treatment of Indians under the Raj. Her first commercially published book, *Chinese Puzzle*, appeared in 1935.

Godden's intense feeling for India was reflected in her third and most popular novel, *Black Narcissus* (1938). The story, about the disorientation of the European nuns in India, was inspired by Godden's experience of finding a nun's grave in the Himalayas. The first American edition sold out in four days, and the book made her rich. Temporarily. For her first husband, Laurence Foster, with whom she made a "shotgun" marriage in 1934,



was a stockbroker who ran away into the Army leaving extensive bad debts. She moved with her two daughters to Kashmir: "I decided the only way to face it out was to live very simply. I lived like an Indian peasant."

Through her friends Lord and Lady Simon of Wythenshawe, she met James Haynes Dixon, the writer who founded the youth hostels movement. He became her second husband in 1949, and a certain luxury was restored. After living in Hampstead, they moved to Rye in East Sussex. One dramatic night their house burnt down, though one of Godden's daughters managed to salvage the manuscript of her next novel. They moved, then, into Lamb House, previously the home of Henry James and then of the "uncontrollably prolific" writer E. F. Benson.

In 1951 Godden collaborated with Jean

Renoir on the screenplay for his film version of her 1946 novel *The River*. *Black Narcissus*, *An Episode of Sparrows* (1953), *The Greengate Summer* (1958) and *A Fugue in Time* were also made into films. Among her more unusual projects were the screenplay for a ballet film of *The Tales of Beatrix Potter* and a book about her beloved pekinesees.

A number of her books deal with the subject of women in religious communities, and she became well-known at Stanbrook Abbey. Godden herself converted to Roman Catholicism, and in books such as *Five for Sorrow*, *Ten for Joy* (1979) and *In This House of Brede* (1969) she acutely examined the balance between the mystical aspects of religion and the submission of the individual to the spiritual discipline.

Her books for children, especially her several doll stories, convincingly convey the secret thoughts and aspirations of childhood, and in 1972 she won the Whitbread Award for *The Diddakoi*. As well as fiction she produced two verse narratives for children, *In Noah's Ark* (1949) and *St Jerome and the Lion*. She published two volumes of autobiography, in 1987 and 1990. She was appointed OBE in 1993.

Her second husband died in 1973, and Godden moved to Dumfriesshire to live at the home of one of her daughters. She still made occasional excursions to London, in 1987 appearing (and stealing the show) on a BBC2 books programme. In 1994 she undertook her last great adventure, returning to India at the age of 86 to take part in a full-scale BBC TV documentary on her writing life. Although she could be difficult, she remained indomitable. She is survived by her two daughters.

DEATHS

VANTAN - Katie/Bobbie (nee Maitland) neoclassical Pianist, Home Nursing Home, Peterborough on Thursday 5th November 1998 aged 81 years. Widow of Ronnie, mother of Keith, Alastair and John, much loved mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother. All enquiries to Wainman & Stafford Funeral Directors, Peterborough Tel: 01753 554515

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

CHARLTON - A Thanksgiving Service for the life of John Charlton will be held in the chapel of Magdalene College, Cambridge, on the 28th November at 12 noon. All who were witnesses, but as space is limited, it would be helpful to the family if you could signal an intention to be present by informing Susan Charlton (0171 370 1711) or Jean Gooder (01223 354060).

HOARE - The Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Bridget Hoare will be held in St. Luke's Church, Sydney Street, Chelsea on Wednesday November 18th at 3pm.

ROBERTS - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Doreen Lady Robert (Judith Randall) widow of Sir Peter Roberts, Bt, will be held on Wednesday 2nd December at 12 noon at St. Michael's Church, Chelsea, London SW1.

IN MEMORIAM - WAR

SOUTH AFRICAN SIXTH ARMY DIVISION - In memory of all those who served in North Africa and Italy 1942 to 1945.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

SEARLE - Beryl (nee Miller) of Darsham, Suffolk, who died twenty-five years ago. Remembrance with gratitude and love by her daughter Ruth.

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LIFE AND DEATH ON THIS DAY

November 11, 1916

With the awful casualty lists of the Somme offensive still fresh in the mind, this regular Saturday "sermon", by an Oxford poet, takes on a special poignancy.

which our old estimations and values are changed. Young men have set life against other things, and found that other things were more worth while; they have weighed death in the balance, and found death more tolerable than the things they could not tolerate. Into that vision they have mounted up with wings undismayed; and those that knew them, loved them, and talked with them, have learned from them the lesson they had learned for themselves.

Death is grown a familiar friend, who has put aside his sting; and whatever victories may be promised, there is no victory of the grave. These are days in



NEWS

Blair looks far and wide for mayor

Tony Blair is looking for a substantial business figure with proven executive abilities to come forward as the first elected mayor of London.

As the London Labour party took the first step to prevent Ken Livingstone being chosen as Labour's official candidate for the election in 2000, it emerged that the Prime Minister is searching well beyond the ranks of politicians.

Army leak could lead to court martial

Britain's 170,000 soldiers have been warned that they will face a court martial if they leak secret information about planned cuts in the Territorial Army.

Whitehall 'bug' fears

Nine Whitehall departments and agencies will be named today as the worst prepared inside the Government to cope with the millennium computer bug.

Boycott verdict

The reputation of Geoffrey Boycott was in ruins yesterday as a French court condemned him, for the second time, as a woman beater.

Wardens assaulted

Young children at Britain's first institution for child offenders have assaulted staff on almost 100 occasions since it opened seven months ago.

Mark of a master

A painting long thought to have been the work of the 17th-century Spanish artist Murillo has been reattributed to his teacher Velázquez.

War on racism

Colin Powell, the highest-ranking black officer in America who has been flown into Britain as part of the armed forces' self-declared "war on racism", said officers should be punished for any racism that occurs among their troops.

Palace gig for Lancashire lads

A schoolboy pop band, who received £5,000 from the National Lottery to play more concerts, will perform in Buckingham Palace after writing an irreverent letter - beginning "Dear Your Majesty" - to the Queen.

Maze Prison to close

The government tried to draw the sting from a shocking report on Northern Ireland's Maze prison last night by announcing its intention to close the top-security jail by late 2000.

Tory bosses quarrel

William Hague moved to bring Michael Portillo into line over the single currency amid claims that the former defence secretary was after his job.

Russians flee homes

As Russian and European Union officials worked out a multi-million-pound aid package to help Russia through the winter, reports emerged that inhabitants of far-northern villages were abandoning their homes.

War crimes signal

Western diplomatic sources have confirmed that a war crimes suspect arrested in Bosnia in September was actually seized by SAS troops in Serbia, sending a warning to president Milosevic that his country is no longer a haven for those wanted for trial.

India talks falter

Talks between India and Pakistan on a disputed creek, which is short, narrow, shallow, unnavigable and of no commercial value, have broken down acrimoniously - the final proof that the old enemies can agree on nothing.



Hyde Park's lawns were lost in leaves yesterday as winter approaches the capital

BUSINESS

Auditors sacked: Abbey National has replaced the merged PricewaterhouseCoopers as its auditor, claiming it represents too many companies.

Confidence slumps: Business confidence has slumped again, falling to levels consistent with a manufacturing recession, according to the CBI's latest survey.

GEC row: The head of defence export services at the Ministry of Defence is joining GEC, raising fresh concerns about the role of civil servants who transfer to the private sector.

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 1.6 to 5432.3. The pound rose 29 cents to £1.6623 and fell 0.6 pips to DM2.7993. The sterling index rose to 100.8 from 100.7.

SPORT

Cricket: Graham Thorpe and Mark Ramprakash averted a potential innings defeat by South Australia with an unbroken partnership of 371 for England's fifth wicket.

Football: Graham Bean, a CID officer from Barnsley, was appointed football's first "sleaze buster" with the task of tackling the game's ugly side.

Rugby union: Dan Luger will win his first cap on the left wing and Martin Cory leapfrogs some rivals at No 8 for England against the Netherlands.

Simon Barnes: That misfortune can be an inspiration is a tale as old as sport, but we must consider the notion that actual illness can be a real advantage.

ARTS

Bird brained: Jude Kelly's West Yorkshire Playhouse unveils an engrossing production of Chekhov's The Seagull, with a fine performance by Ian McKellen.

Flying Swede: The Swedish actor Stellan Skarsgård came to the attention of British movie-goers as Emily Watson's husband in Breaking the Waves. Now he's everywhere.

Smart exchange: Two years after an IRA bomb devastated Manchester's city centre, the magnificently restored Royal Exchange Theatre is reborn.

Life of Riley: Four decades of the career of Bridget Riley, one of the most outstanding artists of postwar Britain, are showcased in a new exhibition.

FEATURES

Good parenting: Loving other people's children is not easy - and it could all be because of a simple gene. Our series on how to be a good parent continues with a look at step-parents.

Rhesus positive: Research indicates that monkeys may live longer if their diet is restricted.

Buffalo gal: Joanna Coles increases the steak intake in a bid to harness protein power in the Big Apple.

Legacy of war: Magnus Linklater describes how, thanks to a tin helmet, his novelist father managed to survive the Great War.

People & Property: A logbook for your house, kitchens with good taste, cashing in on apartment deals, rich young buyers boost the market: the secret of a London village's style.

Economic conditions in Russia are bound to produce unsettled politics. But no economic troubles could excuse a resurgence of anti-Semitism. This is a poison with a long pedigree in Russia, but one that has been blessedly missing for the most part in the cauldron of post-Soviet politics.

Risks of instigating drug tests at work; support for Prince Charles's remarriage; Doris Lessing on the cost of the Dome; Bevin Boys remembered; devolution warning; Rector of Stiffkey.

The Washington Post.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FILMS: Johnny Depp as Hunter S. Thompson: Geoff Brown gives his verdict on Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas

BOOKS: Raymond Seitz enjoys the Harold Evans view of America

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,946

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 28 indicating the starting positions for the clues.

- ACROSS: 1 Otherwise tick and store everything for sale (5-2-5). 9 North American wood left out becomes dark brown (5). 10 Refuse to accept delivery by jet (9). 11 By staying on the outside, not so much led astray, fortunately (9). 12 Fly without new navigation aid (5). 13 Synthetic polymer trimmed for use (6). 15 Picture of biscuits just out of the oven? (8). 18 Haggled like the composer's wife? (8). 19 Hold up basket of food (6). 22 Guarantee, when queen is removed, to succeed (6). 24 Unlike Herrick's rose, lacking old-fashioned character (9). 26 Standard formal procedure half repeated in study (9).

A word search puzzle titled 'DICKER ISOBARIC' with a grid of letters and a list of words to find.

AA INFORMATION

AA INFORMATION: Latest Road and Weather conditions, World City Weather, Motoring, Car reports by fax.

FORECAST

FORECAST: General: England and Wales will start cold with any early fog and frost lifting to leave sunny spells. SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: cloudy with a few showers, mostly drying out this afternoon with a few light sunny intervals.

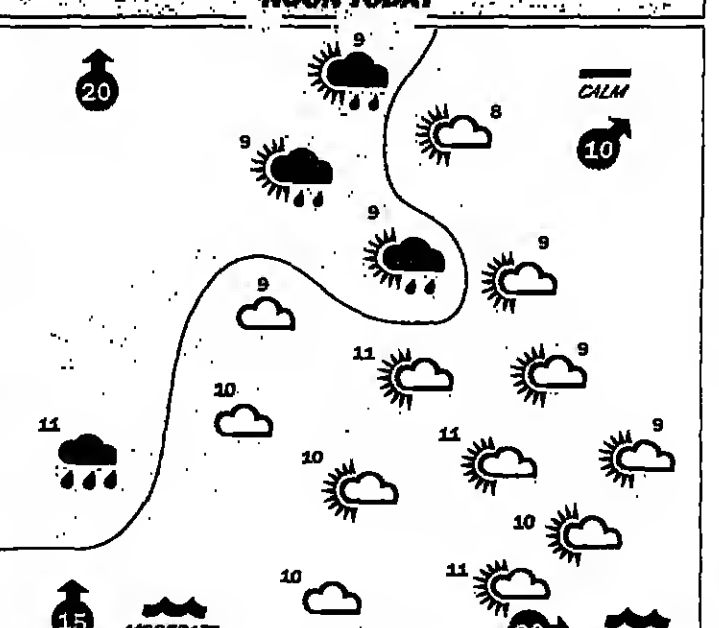
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday, including temperature, wind, and cloud cover for various locations like Aberdeen, London, and Manchester.

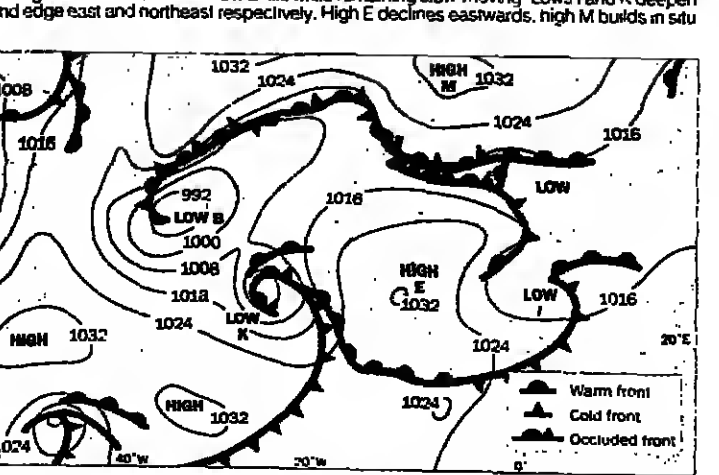
ABROAD

Table showing weather conditions abroad for various cities like Moscow, Tokyo, and Sydney.

NOON TODAY



HIGH TIDES



HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing the hours of darkness for various locations in the UK, including sunrise and sunset times.

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Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the text 'PwC d from Abbey' and 'Civil servant on fast track private sector Rank rebuf'.



THE TIMES

DAY NOVEMBER 11 1998

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY

ECONOMICS Janet Bush asks what price IMF redemption PAGE 29

ARTS Ian McKellen wows them in Leeds and Chekhov PAGES 36-38

SPORT Thorpe gives England impetus in Australia PAGES 41-48

TELEVISION AND RADIO Pages 46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11 1998

PwC dropped from £7m Abbey audit

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

ABBEY NATIONAL, the former building society, has dropped PricewaterhouseCoopers as its auditor because it believes that the newly merged accountancy firm now carries out the audit for too many competing financial companies.

An Abbey spokeswoman pointed out that PwC audited Lloyds TSB, Royal Bank of Scotland and CGU — all of whom are competitors. "There is no question about the professional independence of PwC. We just thought that we might be better served by a smaller company," she said.

PwC carries out the annual audit for 48 of the FTSE 100 companies, and 93 of the next biggest 250 quoted companies. Some believe that the greatest level of dissatisfaction is among the smaller companies.

Civil servant on fast track to private sector

BY JASON NISSÉ

GEC stirred up a controversy about civil servants joining the private sector yesterday after announcing that Sir Charles Masfield, the head of Defence Export Services (DES) at the Ministry of Defence, would be joining GEC as vice-chairman.

Chief of the Defence Staff, who had to wait six months after his departure in April last year before taking up posts of non-executive director of Racal Electronics and adviser to Vickers.

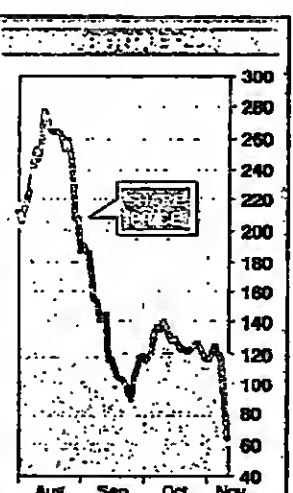
Ernst & Young and KPMG were at one time planning to merge, but Ernst & Young called off the marriage. PwC will carry out the audit of the Abbey National for this year. Shareholders will be asked to vote on the switch to Deloitte at the annual meeting in 1999.



Stuart Rose said the situation at Booker was far worse than he had thought when he joined the company last month, prompting him to take personal charge of the cash-and-carry business with a promise to trim senior management

Booker director dismissed

BY FRASER NELSON



STUART ROSE, the newly appointed chief executive of Booker, has dismissed a director after discovering that the company is in danger of breaching its banking covenants.

Mr Busby was entitled to a £360,000 payoff. Mr Rose said this is under negotiation. Shares of Booker immediately lost almost half their value as analysts changed full-year forecasts from £70 million to £20 million.

banks and they are willing to support the management. The trading problems mostly relate to "Project Heartland" — an idea drawn up by Mr Busby to replace Booker's network of small food depositaries with five central warehouses.

Latest economic data fuels business gloom

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BUSINESS confidence in the economy has slumped again, falling to a level consistent with a manufacturing recession, rapidly falling demand and output makes it hardly surprising that the falls in business confidence are now consistent with a manufacturing recession throughout the UK.

Andy Schofield, senior economist at Business Strategies, said: "The fate of the manufacturing sector will depend on a further easing in sterling's exchange rate and the ability of the world economy to avoid recession."

The joint study of business performance and expectations found that orders in the north fell by record levels and that confidence is now at a level last seen in 1990.

Rank rebuffs former leisure chief

BY DOMINIC WALSH



Henderson: giving clear signal

SIR DENYS HENDERSON, the Rank Group chairman, has decided to refuse a request for a meeting with John Garrett, a former Rank director, to discuss a possible £900 million bid for its leisure division.

bidders throwing their hats into the ring for various parts of the business. Leading the pack has been Mr Garrett, himself ousted last year as head of the leisure division after a high-profile bust-up with Mr Teare over his division's performance.

three years, now is not the time to be selling, as the full potential of the businesses has yet to be realised. It is also unlikely that Sir Denys will make any significant move until he has appointed a new chief executive.

Problems getting a mortgage, but want a High Street rate? No problem! Arrears? Defaults? CCJs? 0990-20-22-22

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including Stock Market Indices, US Rate, London Money, and Sterling.

Transatlantic trade war looms

THE European Union and the US moved towards a new trade war over bananas last night as Washington threatened punitive tariffs on a range of European imports.



### Woolwich sells estate agencies

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

WOOLWICH, the former building society, has sold off its 160-branch estate agency for £23 million to Spicer McColl, the independent estate agency chain.

The deal is backed by Winterthur Life, the UK life company, owned by the Credit Suisse Group. The insurer will sell financial services through the estate agency network, which will continue to trade until the end of the year as Woolwich Property Services.

The purchase means that Winterthur has ties with 1,000 estate agents across the UK. Woolwich bought the estate agency chain from Prudential Property Services for £21 million in 1991. At the market's peak in 1989, estate agents were changing hands for about £250,000 a branch. Now branches are priced at about £150,000 each.

John Finan, chairman and chief executive of Winterthur Life, said: "We are confident this purchase will prove to be of benefit to consumers as the Woolwich chain will now be joining the operations of our leading partners."

Woolwich claimed yesterday that the estate agents were now showing a profit. The estate agents provided about 10 per cent of its £3.5 billion annual new lending. A spokesman for Woolwich said that the deal would not change that proportion of its new lending.

# Intel gives damaging evidence in Microsoft's antitrust trial

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

INTEL, the world's biggest computer chip manufacturer, yesterday made the most damaging allegations yet against Microsoft in the antitrust trial. Microsoft "repeatedly and on many occasions" threatened Intel with drastic sanctions if it did not withdraw from the software business, according to Steven McGeedy, an Intel vice-president.

Intel has itself been accused of monopolistic behaviour and has little to gain from a weakening of Microsoft, with which it has a close business partnership. Some critics have nicknamed the two companies "Wintel" over their dual hold on the computer market.

Mr McGeedy said Microsoft had tried to choke off any competition in market segments where it operated. Its executives allegedly told Mr McGeedy that most software

areas were "under their control". Mr McGeedy claimed that Microsoft executives believed that they had control of "all the software above the hardware".

Intel's main dispute with Microsoft came three years ago over Java, a new programming language that was threatening to undermine the dominant position of Microsoft's Windows operating system.

Microsoft apparently ordered Intel to stop work on develop-

ing the graphics section of Java. Mr McGeedy told the trial: "They wanted us to stop because this constituted competition."

He testified that Microsoft was threatening to cut its support for future microprocessors made by Intel, maker of the Pentium brand of chips.

Mr McGeedy said: "Bill [Gates] made it clear Microsoft wouldn't support our next processor if we didn't get alignment on the software issue."

Mr Gates, Microsoft's chairman, denied the allegations. Justice Department lawyers contrasted Mr McGeedy's testimony with excerpts from the video-taped questioning of Mr Gates.

The court was shown a videotape of testimony in which Mr Gates was asked: "Did Microsoft make any effort to convince Intel not to help Java?" Mr Gates replied: "Not that I know of." The trial continues.

## Minister plays midwife to euro at Rotherham bus station

BY PAUL WILKINSON

ROTHERHAM bus station yesterday became the unlikely setting for the euro to make its first appearance on the streets of Britain.

Seven weeks before it even becomes an official currency within Europe and three years before it formally replaces the currencies of nations that have signed up for it, businesses in the bus station shopping arcade were pricing their wares in both sterling and the new EU currency to try to raise public awareness.

Baroness Symons, the Foreign Office Minister, will go down in history as the first British shopper to buy something with a euro when she bought a royal blue nylon wallet from Rotherham's Labour MP, Denis MacShane. The moment, acted out in front of television cameras and the press, will be recorded for posterity by a brass plaque to be fixed to the wall in the arcade.

Sadly for the bemused shoppers looking on, the free euros, each with an equivalent sterling value of 70p, that were being handed out by the Rotherham Euro Ready Project were not the notes that will circulate. However, the slips of paper, similar to soap coupons apart from a picture of the

town's parish church, could be used in part-payment in several Rotherham shops for purchases over £10. McDonald's staff had been instructed to accept them for soft drinks.

"Yes, it is a bit of a stunt," confessed Phil Davies, the project's media director. "But it is about making people realise that the euro is here. It's not a matter of if we sign up to it, it's simply a matter of when, and people need to be ready. It won't go away."

Julie Kenny, president of Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, many of whose members are funding the project, said: "This week is a fun way to tell people what is happening and to get them used to it. The euro is coming in on January 1 on the Continent whether we like it or not and we have to be ready."

Christopher Duff, the chamber chief executive, said: "Rotherham companies do around £1.2 billion worth of business a year and a significant proportion of that goes abroad, most of it to Europe... From January 1, British Steel, our biggest employer will be sending out its invoices in euros and others are sure to follow."



Flags and badges for the locals as Rotherham businesses launched an experiment with the euro yesterday

## Prescott opposes post plan

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN PRESCOTT, Deputy Prime Minister, has backed postal workers' fight against Post Office privatisation.

His support, added to that of other senior Labour figures, is likely to weaken the ability of Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary, to stage a partial sale of the organisation.

At a meeting last week, Mr Prescott told Derek Hodgson, general secretary of the Communication Workers Union, that he would oppose partial privatisation plans.

The Government is considering selling up to 49 per cent of the Post Office. Mr Prescott's opposition comes after comments by Stephen Byers, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, to union delegates at the Labour conference that the Treasury did not want a sale but rather the steady income stream that the Post Office provides.

Martin O'Neill, chairman of the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee, is vehemently against a partial sale. Many Labour backbenchers are worried about public reaction to the sale of a stake.

Mr Mandelson may now have to scrap the idea of a sale and instead give the Post Office more commercial freedom and make it an independent publicly owned corporation. This would enable it to compete for more business overseas and raise its own funds.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## US investment hits Sotheby's figures

SOTHEBY'S HOLDINGS, the auctions, financial services and real estate group, almost doubled its third-quarter losses to \$20.8 million (£12.5 million), largely because of a \$15.2 million charge against the cost of expanding its New York auction business. Excluding one-off items, losses in the three months to September 30 grew from \$9.2 million to \$11.2 million, on flat revenue of \$51.3 million.

The third quarter, traditionally loss-making because of the absence of major sales, meant that total profits for the first nine months fell from \$11.2 million to \$6.5 million. Excluding the cost of the New York development, profits fell from \$16.9 million to \$16.1 million because of increased investment in the business. Total revenues for the year so far, including the financial services and real estate businesses, were up 13 per cent, at \$266.4 million. The strength of US auction markets was reflected in a 13 per cent jump in auction sales, to \$1.13 billion.

## Profit takers hit Shield

THE heart disease test developed by Shield Diagnostics is more effective than other measures based on cholesterol and fibrinogen levels, according to data presented to an influential American healthcare conference. Shield's test for a blood-clotting agent known as Activated Factor XII (AFT) has been the cause of an extraordinary rise in its share price over the past two years. From a recent low of 290p, Shield's price had jumped to 622p on expectations of the presentation to the American Heart Association in Dallas. Yesterday, the price fell back to 577p on profit-taking.

## Origin in alliance

ORIGIN, a subsidiary of Philips, has entered an alliance with Wonderware, Siebe's US subsidiary, to provide shop-floor software and support to companies. Wim Verkuiljen, director of industrial automation at Origin, said the companies have a natural compatibility because Wonderware makes the software that industrial companies use on shopfloors, while Origin provides support for shopfloor software and enterprise resource planning software. Wonderware said that it plans to immediately roll out new plant floor services in Europe and expand into the US, Mexico and Asia in 1999.

## Cargill to buy rival

CARGILL, the world's biggest grain-trading company, said yesterday it would buy the grain business of its long-time rival Continental Grain in an effort to strengthen its dominant position in the industry. The deal is likely to spark close scrutiny from antitrust regulators in the United States and Europe. Minneapolis-based Cargill and New York-based Continental Grain for years have ranked as the top two grain exporters from the United States, the world's biggest exporting nation. The terms of the transaction, which the companies expect to complete early next year, were not announced.

## Accountants' deal off

A PROPOSED merger of the accountants Kidsons Impy and Moores Rowland has been aborted, it emerged yesterday. Partners cited differences "relating to the constitution and structure of the merged firm". Kidsons Impy is one of Britain's top ten firms of chartered accountants, with more than 150 partners at 28 offices across the UK. Moores Rowland has 90 partners working in 17 offices. It is the foremost member of Moores Rowland International (MRI), an international association of accounting firms. UK member firms of MRI have a joint turnover in excess of £80 million.

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.76	2.78
Austria Sch	20.70	20.04
Belgium Fr	61.00	56.04
Canada \$	2.698	2.497
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8715	0.8901
Denmark Kr	11.23	10.34
Egypt £	5.87	5.26
Finland Mk	9.06	8.31
France Fr	9.96	9.08
Germany DM	2.956	2.723
Greece Dr	498	458
Hong Kong \$	13.70	12.90
Indonesia	129	109
Indonesia	17097	12067
Israel P	1.1903	1.0913
Israel Sh	7.44	6.78
Italy Lire	2046	2046
Japan Yen	218.70	201.17
Netherlands	0.695	0.696
Netherlands Gld	3.349	3.054
New Zealand \$	1.329	1.306
Norway Kr	13.03	12.00
Portugal Esc	209.83	277.90
S. Africa R	10.04	9.08
Spain Ptas	249.66	230.87
Sweden Kr	14.03	12.93
Switzerland Fr	2.469	2.247
Turkey Lira	501644	488301
USA \$	1.789	1.630

Rates for 2000 denominations banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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... quarter losses  
... because of a \$15.2 million  
... New York office  
... \$1.2 million to \$11.2 million

Bankers hit Shield

Diagnostix is  
... and  
... an influenza  
... test for a blood  
... NI-AFT, has been  
... price over the  
... Shield's price had  
... to the  
... yesterday, the price

in alliance

formed an alliance  
... provide cheap  
... services in Europe  
... and enter  
... services in Europe

to buy rival

... to buy rival

ants' deal off

ants' deal off



... BUILD  
... SON'S  
... NEEDED  
... FEEL FOR  
... ESS.

# Booker is no prize for Rose

Stuart Rose was a touch premature in putting a chunk of his Argos prize money into Booker shares. The purchase was a fine tribute to his faith in his own abilities but failed to take full account of the lousy state of his raw material. He is not quite saying that Booker's previous management deserves a prize for fiction but he is quite clear that what he has uncovered in four weeks is very much nastier than he had been led to expect.

His revelations must have left David Simons and John von Spreckelsen thanking the luck or judgment that saw them both abandon plans to take on Booker. Mr Simons has more than enough to occupy him, trying to see through the merger of Somerfield and KwikSave. Mr von Spreckelsen may be bored with Budgets but that is probably a more comfortable situation than the one in which Mr Rose now finds himself.

The man who must take responsibility for much of the mess that Stuart Rose is now uncovering is Jonathan Taylor, who was chairman until a fortnight ago. Under his leadership the company was allowed to degenerate into its current parlous state and misguided diversions were launched into, at heavy cost. Remember when Booker was going to change the face of discount retailing in Britain, devising a concept to bring US-style retail ware-

## COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

houses to our shores? The result was conspicuously not a home-grown version of the thriving US business, Wal-Mart. In fact, it was just one of many Booker disasters but only reluctantly were the perpetrators of these unhappy adventures eased out of the company.

Charles Bowen was the most recent to go. Mr Taylor, however, remained in position as profits slumped and Booker searched increasingly desperately for a reason d'être. Mr Taylor joined Booker in 1959 and became chairman in 1993. While he has presided over the business, some £400 million in shareholder value has simply seeped away.

## Auditors fear Abbey habit

Abbey National's decision to change its auditors amounts to a challenge to the fundamental reasoning behind the merger of two of the leading accounting firms. When Price Waterhouse and Coopers decided to join forces, and names, in a middle of type faces, they were adamant that clients would be happy with the new combine.

Thal Abbey National has already reached the view that it will be taking its £7 million of business elsewhere must raise the spectre of further defections to come. The Abbey's decision can only hasten the end of mourning by those who would have put Ernst & Young together with KPMG. One firm's losses are, after all, another firm's gains.

## Giving priority to the big fish

Of the 147 civilian employees of the Ministry of Defence who left to join the private sector during 1996 and 1997, 40 had conditions imposed on their new appointments. These ranged from having to wait six months before taking up the role, to being precluded from discussions on government contracts.

But the chances are that Abbey's discontent is not due merely to perceived conflict of interest. Perhaps its directors also feel that they would be better cosseted elsewhere, and maybe even at a better price even if they are reluctant to admit as much. If PriceWaterhouseCoopers is not offering the most favourable deal on price, then another argument

## Last call for jobs

THE latest dose of gloom from the CBI shows that the pain in the economy is not restricted to the north of the country. In the South East, confidence has plunged as order books shrink. The Government can produce figures to show that jobs are still being created even if they are vanishing fast from manufacturing. Call centres are the great hope for keeping unemployment figures down but worried southerners are increasingly unlikely to be picking up their phones to order new clothes and trinkets.

# C&W saves on costs as revenue increases

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

CABLE & Wireless Communications, one of the UK's big three cable companies, yesterday announced that, for the first time, it had experienced revenue growth in all its markets at the same time as cutting costs.

The improved performance produced adjusted pre-tax profits of £73 million in the six months to the end of September, compared with £65 million in the first half of the previous year. Actual pre-tax profits, including exceptional items and millennium costs, were £55 million, against losses of £135 million.

Graham Wallace, chief executive of Cable & Wireless, said: "Excellent progress has been made on both increasing revenue growth and reducing our unit costs. Revenue increased in all four business units, reversing the previous declines in business and corporate markets."

Cable & Wireless shares rose 15p to 476p yesterday, compared with a 12-month high of 716½p.



John Houlston, chief executive, says Dairy Crest held on to the benefit of lower milk costs with its added-value brands

# Advertising lets Dairy Crest widen margins

BY FRASER NELSON

HEAVY advertising of Cathedral City and Davidstow cheeses has allowed Dairy Crest to hold the prices of its branded products despite a sharp fall in the price of milk.

The company has managed to pocket most of the benefits from the 12 per cent drop in milk prices by spending £1 million a month on television advertising of its main brands.

This year, it intends to spend £12 million on television advertising - a 50 per cent increase on last year's budget - to help it to move away from the commodity cheese market.

Shares in Dairy Crest rose 6½p to 317½p yesterday as the company reported pre-tax profits of £20.7 million (£18.7 million) for the six months to September 30 - at the top end of City expectations.

John Houlston, chief executive, said the company had increased margins from 5 per cent to 5.8 per cent by selling a higher mix of its more expensive cheeses, and by not passing on all cost savings to supermarkets. He said: "In our added-value brands, we have been able to hang on to the benefits from lower milk costs, but in the commodity brands, we have had to pass them on."

Although the City applauded the business tactics, they are likely to fuel debate on whether consumers are overcharged for dairy products.

Branded products, which include Prijs, now represents 40 per cent of group sales, but about 75 per cent of profits.

Dairy Crest spent £6 million on advertising in the first half, up from £3.75 million spent in the same period last year.

Headline earnings per share were 13.2p (11.8p). The dividend rises to 3.85p (3.5p).

Tempus, page 28

# Lonrho Africa board besieged

BY JASON NISSE

BLAKENEY Management yesterday launched its requisition for an extraordinary meeting to oust part of the board of Lonrho Africa after having a proposal for a compromise deal rejected.

The fund management group is demanding the removal of Bernard Asher, Lonrho Africa's chairman, and two other directors, Stephen Walls and Michael Wilson, and their replacement with three Blakeney nominees.

It had offered to tone down these proposals to avoid an EGM, suggesting that only Mr Walls need resign and that only two Blakeney nominees be appointed. However, after a 13-hour board meeting on Monday, Lonrho Africa rejected this compromise.

Blakeney's attack on Lonrho Africa follows its poor performance after its demerger from Lonrho last May. Miles Morland, chairman of Blakeney, said yesterday: "Mr Asher has the strategic consistency of a windscreen wiper."

# Newsquest slowdown

NEWSQUEST, the regional newspaper group, said yesterday that it was experiencing a slowdown in revenue growth, particularly in recruitment advertising (Raymond Snoddy writes).

Newsquest reported pre-tax profits of £14.3 million for the 13 weeks to October 31 compared with £9.6 million for the 13 weeks to the end of September 1997.

In the 40 weeks of the year so far Newsquest has had turnover of £235 million and pre-tax profits of £49.6 million. The shares rose 8p to 250½p yesterday.

# Seagram seeks to silence drinks arm speculation

BY DOMINIC WALSH

SEAGRAM, the Canadian media and drinks group, yesterday moved to quash mounting speculation over its spirits and wine arm by unveiling "a new vision and strategic direction" for the business.

In the wake of its impending \$10.4 billion (£6.3 billion) acquisition of PolyGram, the music and film combine, there have been persistent suggestions that it might seek to offload its drinks arm.

But Edgar Bronfman Jr, president and chief executive, said: "Through its worldwide presence and consistent cash-flow, our spirits and wine business will continue to be a vital contributor to overall company growth and operations."

A spokeswoman added: "This statement underlines that we are definitely in the wine and spirits business to stay." She said that although it did not preclude a merger or strategic alliance with a third party, it showed Seagram was "not simply waiting to merge with someone or sell the business off". Allied Domecq is known to have held talks with Seagram on a possible tie-up.

Seagram's new strategy involves funneling the lion's share of investment and marketing support into its four biggest brands - Chivas Regal and Crown Royal whiskies, Absolut vodka and Captain Morgan rum.

In the first half of 1999, the group will move from a regional and brand group structure to a central management team based in New York.

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# What price redemption for the IMF?

The International Monetary Fund is clearly beyond redemption. Gil Diaz, an IMF representative in Managua, was reported by Reuters to have said on Monday that the pressures of reconstruction should not lead us to abandon economic stability in Nicaragua. So far, estimates suggest that Hurricane Mitch has caused the deaths of 4,000 people with a further 7,000 missing and 800,000 made homeless. Nevertheless, Señor Diaz said, Nicaragua will still be bound by existing IMF agreements that include cutting public spending, laying off government workers, raising the cost of public services and privatising state-owned firms.

When Michel Camdessus, the IMF Managing Director, was asked at last month's annual meeting whether he regretted anything that the IMF had done during the past year of global economic crisis, he said: "I have repented of my personal sins... but not much." If Señor Diaz represents IMF policy, M Camdessus, a staunch Catholic, may want to repent a little more.

In comparison with the IMF, the announcements yesterday by France and Britain look positively enlightened. France has said that it intends to cancel part or all of the debt owed by Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, a genuine example of leadership given that France is estimated to hold 2 per cent of the £4.1 billion owed by Honduras and 2 per cent of the £6.1 billion owed by Nicaragua.

Britain is owed only £900,000 by Nicaragua and £300,000 by Honduras. Despite these very small sums, it is not prepared to cancel any debt outright. A move by Britain along with France would have set a ground-breaking and important precedent but it was not to be.

Britain also called yesterday for a moratorium on official bilateral debt servicing and, together with

France, is setting up a trust fund, donating £10 million each to start it off. Given that it is astonishingly unlikely that debts will be serviced by these ruined economies, the moratorium simply appears to be a formalisation of reality. The trust fund is designed to help Mitch victims service their debts to multilateral institutions. In other words, the IMF's main shareholders are, temporarily, paying the IMF's bills. It would be far more to the point if the IMF called its own moratorium or, better still, simply cancelled the outstanding debt. But no — the IMF always gets paid.

Britain is also calling for the qualification period for countries to become eligible for debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) to be shortened by a year for victims of natural disasters. This sounds impressive but is far from it in the



JANET BUSH

context of the dreadful problems now faced in Central America. Nicaragua would not receive any debt relief until 2001 instead of 2002. Honduras has not even started on the HIPC process and could be a minimum of six years from relief.

Gordon Brown has argued repeatedly that unilateral cancellation is pointless because debt payments to other creditors would simply go up by the same amount. The truth of Britain's thinking is

far more unedifying. The Government, we are told, is against cancellation because this would mean losing the influence that creditors enjoy and "prevent us pushing them along" on the road to economic reform. This is IMF orthodoxy at its control-freak worst and is deeply disappointing from a Government that has done relatively well on development issues.

Various arguments are mobilised against genuine debt forgiveness. The main one is moral hazard. If creditors simply wipe the debts out, won't developing countries be encouraged simply to build them up again? This is unlikely. For one thing, all official and bilateral flows to developing countries now have clear conditions attached that would make it far more difficult to get away with profligacy or corruption. The price of misbehaviour, in the tough world of condi-

tionality, would be an effective moratorium on new aid and loans. It is a mark of how scared developing countries are that the tap will be turned off that, despite the national catastrophe of El Niño, Peru (which, having effectively defaulted in the 1980s, knows what it is like to be in the financial wilderness) has refused to renegotiate its annual debt payments despite clearly lacking the money to address the emergency.

In any case, there are imaginative alternatives to pure debt cancellation that would ensure the money was spent wisely. Debt conversion is one. This covers various schemes in which debt is reduced or cancelled and diverted to social or environmental programmes.

Conversion has already been done extensively in Latin America, according to Mariano Valderama, director of the Peruvian

Social Studies Centre in Lima. Under the Americas Initiative launched by President Bush in 1990, for example, Chile and the US agreed to reduce \$15.7 million of Chile's total debt of \$39.3 million in interest payments to finance environmental protection.

A similar switch in resources would be achieved under Oxfam's proposal for resources from debt relief/cancellation to be used specifically — and in a monitored way — on health and education. Uganda has already offered to do this.

The ideas are out there but the political will is not. Hurricane Mitch was an opportunity for humanity and boldness, a terrible shock that would force a quantum leap in thinking on debt and development. All the debts of the four Central American countries most affected should immediately be cancelled. Having surmounted the psychological shock once, creditors would find it easier to do it again. Perhaps Rwanda could be next. Under current HIPC rules, it won't qualify for relief until at least 2001.

Britain can gain practical benefits from Germany's experience in the run-up to the launch of EMU

# Lessons in preparing for the euro

Sigrid Auferbeck finds out about some of the implications for business of the single currency

Rotherham is playing host to a euro experiment. Euro notes are being distributed on the streets of the South Yorkshire town to offer a taster of what the future may hold for shoppers and traders. But the conversion is only a test run and, much to the frustration of the CBI, no date has been set for Britain to join the single currency.

The CBI's great fear is that British industry will be left behind when fellow EU states switch to the euro. But the evidence is that, despite having a headstart on the UK, preparations in all but the biggest German businesses are not that much more advanced.

Large German companies began preparations as soon as the euro timetable was set out at the EU summit in Madrid 1995. Many medium-sized and small companies, which left euro preparations on the back burner until this year, were warned earlier this year by industrial and trade confederations that they were ignoring upcoming problems. In August DIHT, the German confederation of industry and commerce, criticised such companies for rising being caught napping by the launch of the euro on January 1.

However, starting late, it seems that businesses have caught up. Most companies will be able to participate in cashless trade in the euro come January (euro coins will follow in 2002). "Many small and medium-sized companies confine euro-introduction to an accounting or an IT issue only," said Rolf Epstein, euro project manager at Arthur Andersen's management consulting arm. "But there is more about it: competition patterns will change, and companies must be prepared to deal with that." Experts are less worried

about the biggest companies such as Siemens — they started through preparations early. Also, small firms cause few worries. Although they started their preparations late, they are expected to be flexible enough to adapt quickly. The problem areas look like being among the *Mittelstand*, Germany's medium-sized companies. Stefan von der Heiden, spokesman for *Mittelstandsverband*, the association of medium-sized businesses, said: "The *Mittelstand* tends to ignore the fact that they need to do more than just open a euro account. For them, the euro will change patterns of competition in Europe."

Reasons for late preparations are easy to find: German participation in the euro seemed uncertain until May. "Many thought the whole project might be called off," said Reinhard Kudusz, euro expert at the BDI, the German industrial confederation. The German economy was unlikely to fulfil the Maastricht criteria, and senior politicians openly argued against the euro.

"The Brussels euro summit in May changed the mood," said Bertold Busch, of the German Economic Institute in Cologne. The country was named as one of the founders of economic and monetary union (EMU), making it clear that the euro would inevitably come. Over the summer, many entrepreneurs attended last-minute euro seminars held by the BDI, trade and industrial confederations, and local banks. "Knowledge about the euro was poor until this year, but has improved significantly over the summer," said von der Heiden. Now, 80 per cent of smaller businesses appear to be technically prepared, according to Ortwin Weirich, chairman of



A Rotherham shop window offers a foretaste of life with the euro as the town's traders and shoppers try out the new currency

the euro committee of the Nordrhein-Westphalian Chamber of Trade. The example of Siemens shows how extensive euro preparations can be: "We started bi-weekly meetings on that issue as early as 1995, just after the EU summit in Madrid set the timetable for euro introduction," said Bernhard Kolb, now chairing a three-strong "euro core team". The team was set up in February last year and is now supervising more than 300 euro projects. "In 1996, we developed a handful of euro scenarios with plans for calculation, balancing, what to do with our DM shares and when to pay salaries in euros. In February 1997, our executive board agreed on one scenario, which we have followed ever since."

The timetable was tight and had to be adjusted to the pace of euro legislation. For example, Siemens's shareholders needed to decide to replace shares denominated in marks with new shares that do not yet have a printed value. But before they could do so, the Government had to amend company law, which they did just before this year's season of agnis.

In July Siemens officially announced that it would switch to the euro on October 1 next year — the first day of its next financial year — and asked all 250,000 German and 400,000 euro-zone business partners at which point they intended to do so. Siemens is quite clear that it would expect its suppliers and clients to deal in Euros sooner rather than later.

Nobody at Siemens is prepared to say how expensive

these euro preparations have been so far. As far as investment in IT is concerned, Kolb estimates that they total 3.5 per cent of the company's annual IT spending. "But a lot of the operations research involved will also be valuable in other respects, not only for the euro. The cost of converting to the euro will be repaid within the next three years."

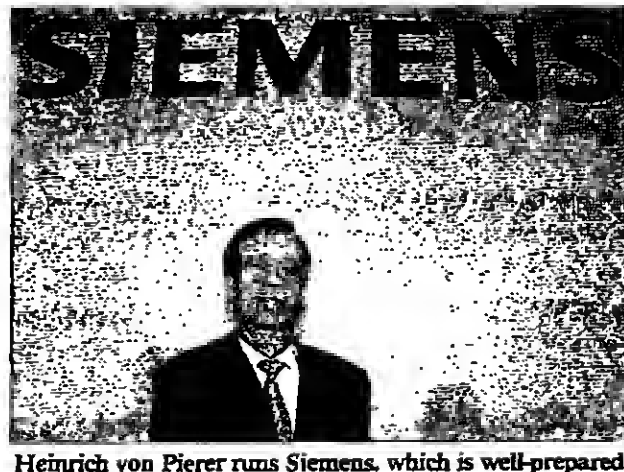
Two areas that Siemens is targeting to make up this cost

are whether parts can be purchased cheaper within Euro-land and what marketing strategies can be used to ensure that prices are competitive in the new euro market.

Whether medium-sized companies profit from the euro to the same extent will depend on how far they have prepared their strategy. Technically, most of them should not have problems. "We started a monthly euro conference years ago," said Helmut Becker, owner of Auto Becker, the Düsseldorf car dealer. "Our IT system had come to its limits anyway, hence the euro came as a good occasion to acquire a new system."

Accountants estimate that a typical medium-sized company of 60 employees is likely to spend between DM100,000 (£35,000) and DM250,000 to prepare its staff for the euro and acquire a euro accounting system.

Help to shape up for euro, according to Becker, was largely sought from the banks, followed by seminars through local industrial and trade organisations. "The financial services



Heinrich von Pierer runs Siemens, which is well-prepared

did a good job," said Becker, who for many years chaired the *Mittelstand* confederation. "But that is their duty, since they make a huge profit with the whole euro transformation process."

Euro information leaflets sent out by the federal authorities were not taken seriously because the Government was seen as too large a promoter of the euro. Also, the State proved to be a bad example with its own euro preparations. Municipal administrations will not switch their accounting system and budget to the euro until the last minute (the end of 2001). Whether medium-sized companies profit from the euro depends on whether they managed to adapt their business strategy. They need to prepare for European competitors making inroads into the formerly currency-sheltered German markets. Price transparency will allow consumers to purchase goods more cheaply in other parts of Euro-land, and will also force German producers to cut costs and prices. "I have always been a global player and am well prepared," said Becker. But many smaller firms will need to review their prices and price points.

Lambertz, the sweets manufacturer based in Aachen, has carried out just such a review. A price of DM2.99 may convert to 1.47 euros, a figure that does not have quite the same effect. The current economic situation makes it hard to put up prices, hence Lambertz decided to alter the size of their containers — a decision that means altering production, machinery and distribution operations. "It was not enough to ensure companies were prepared technically," said *Mittelstand* spokesman von der Heiden. "We must now make sure that strategy is amended too." This is quite an ambitious strategy to pursue in less than two months.

Small businesses cause fewer worries than the larger *Mittelstand*. "Most of them don't need costly preparations aside from IT investment," said Arthur Andersen's Rolf Epstein. "But I am worried about those who find themselves ill-prepared in 1999. Pressure to switch to the euro will be fierce, and whoever needs help from

an IT consultant will pay a fortune at that time."

Experts suggest that the well-prepared among smaller companies will prove to be euro winners, able to take advantage of their greater flexibility towards new euro-related requirements. "I can invoice my clients in DM, euro, with dual currency or whatever they want," said Kurt Biebl, a Hamburg sweets shop owner with DM4 million sales and 19 employees.

Biebl delivers to multinational clients, which will switch to the euro early, whereas other clients will stick with marks. Biebl did not start preparing for the euro until May. "All I had to do was buy one new till and upgrade my other tills for dual pricing." He has outsourced his accounting to an accountant who will decide when to switch the house currency to the euro.

All products in Biebl's shop will carry prices in marks and euros from January 1. By doing so, Biebl is even better prepared than required by his trade group, the HDE, the confederation of German retailers. The HDE demands that some, but not all, products must show prices in both marks and euros from January. During the next few years, the number of euro-priced products will grow gradually, ensuring that consumers are used to the new currency when euro coins are introduced in 2002. Unlike Biebl, who sees no difficulties in dual pricing, the large department stores saw themselves unable to provide that service to customers.

Biebl estimates that the cost of his euro preparations will hit DM15,000 — or DM25,000 including new software and tills. Unlike Siemens, however, he does not expect this investment to pay for itself too quickly. "Politicians try to tell us that the euro will shake up competition in Europe. But I operate locally and do not intend to conquer new markets. I also don't expect new competition. If a European company wants to sell products here in Germany, they can do so already. I purchase goods from all over Europe, and my exchange rates with EMU countries have been stable for years."

# Tunnel toll

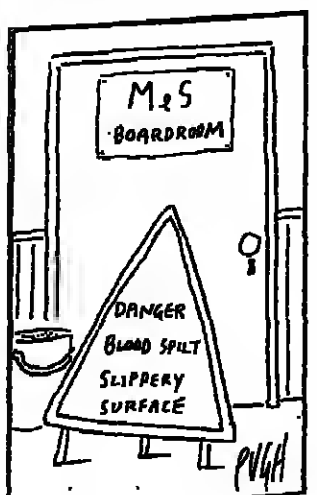
A GLINT of light at the end of the Rotherham Tunnel. Those who commute from the south and the east into the City will have noticed that the Tunnel has been closed. (You will have been able to tell because of the queues of traffic back most of the way to the Charwell Tunnel and Carvey Island.)

A couple of weeks ago I wrote that the firms at Canary Wharf, who expected to be badly hit by the closure, were clubbing together to raise extra funds to enable repairs to be done more quickly. They have offered £100,000 towards the £15 million cost of replacing ventilation fans in the Tunnel, and this has been accepted.

I am told that now the engineers have had a look at the work, there is better than a 50/50 chance that the job can be finished by December 20 rather than dragging on, as initially planned, until January 10. No one is making firm promises, and it depends on work carrying on day and night without disrupting the lives of local residents.

NO ONE at the British Retail Consortium (BRC) will confirm this, and I can see how they might not know which way to jump. But it seems that the other week they were approached by Tesco for advice on the range of electrical goods the supermarket is chipping out at bargain prices.

At the same time another long-standing member approached the BRC also seeking advice. It was Dixons, our biggest electrical goods retailer, which was hugely concerned about plans by one of the big supermarkets to undercut its prices. Tesco, as it happened, and what was the BRC going to do about it?



**Far flung**  
JOHN MURPHY used to run Interbrand, the specialist consultancy, before he sold it and



went into the more sedate areas of hotels and brewing. He owns St Peter's Brewery at Bungay, Suffolk, and has just received an extraordinary plea for money from, of all places, Andorra.

Murphy was at a conference this summer on brands and trademarks in Morocco. Sandra Cruzado of the Andorran trademark and patent office has just written saying what a pleasure it was to meet him there. (He has never heard of her.)

She is offering "our service for protection of your intellectual property" but only by December 7, please, as after this "no prior use will be possible to be claimed". He says none of his product goes to Andorra, but it is just feasible that someone there might decide to infringe on his trademark and produce there. "I'm not going to pay it — to

hell with it," Murphy says. But plenty of large companies are being taken for a ride, particularly by breakthrough former Soviet Union countries, for example, he says. The sums involved are so small, up to £2,000 to protect a trademark for ten years, that it is safer to pay than take the risk.

When he started his new career Murphy bought the Plymouth Gin brand from Allied Domecq. He found more than 100 trademarks had been registered in the most obscure places. "They were all of them worthless."

THERE is an inspiring place in Real Business about wacky bosses and how they go about making their businesses buzz. Lots of stories about practical jokes played on the staff — my, how they laughed. Until they were told to stop — and three case histories.

One is of PanCredit, a software house whose maverick managing director nurtured a no-blame culture and avoided executive pensions, company cars and other bureaucratic trappings.

For some reason his name is omitted from the pen-portrait of his company and its revolutionary way of going about its business. Only in a postscript do you learn that Kevin Hughes, he of the "powerful but informal personality", had left abruptly after personality clashes with customers and the biggest institutional shareholder.

# Fashion tips

I AM not allowed to write much about Peter Young's appearance yesterday. But I have asked those more *à la mode*, perhaps, than Young himself and I can offer some tips.

One, open sandals in November are a no-go. Two, the hippy look is so retro, of course, but the flowered skirt is too short.

And that top? "Oxfam?" says my informant. "I didn't think you could buy jumpers like that any more." And the shocking pink handbag? "Accessorised."

Think grey, Peter, or think black and think Prada. "It reminds me of the outfits I used wear once they left the order — they never could get it right," I am told.



Young: should think Prada

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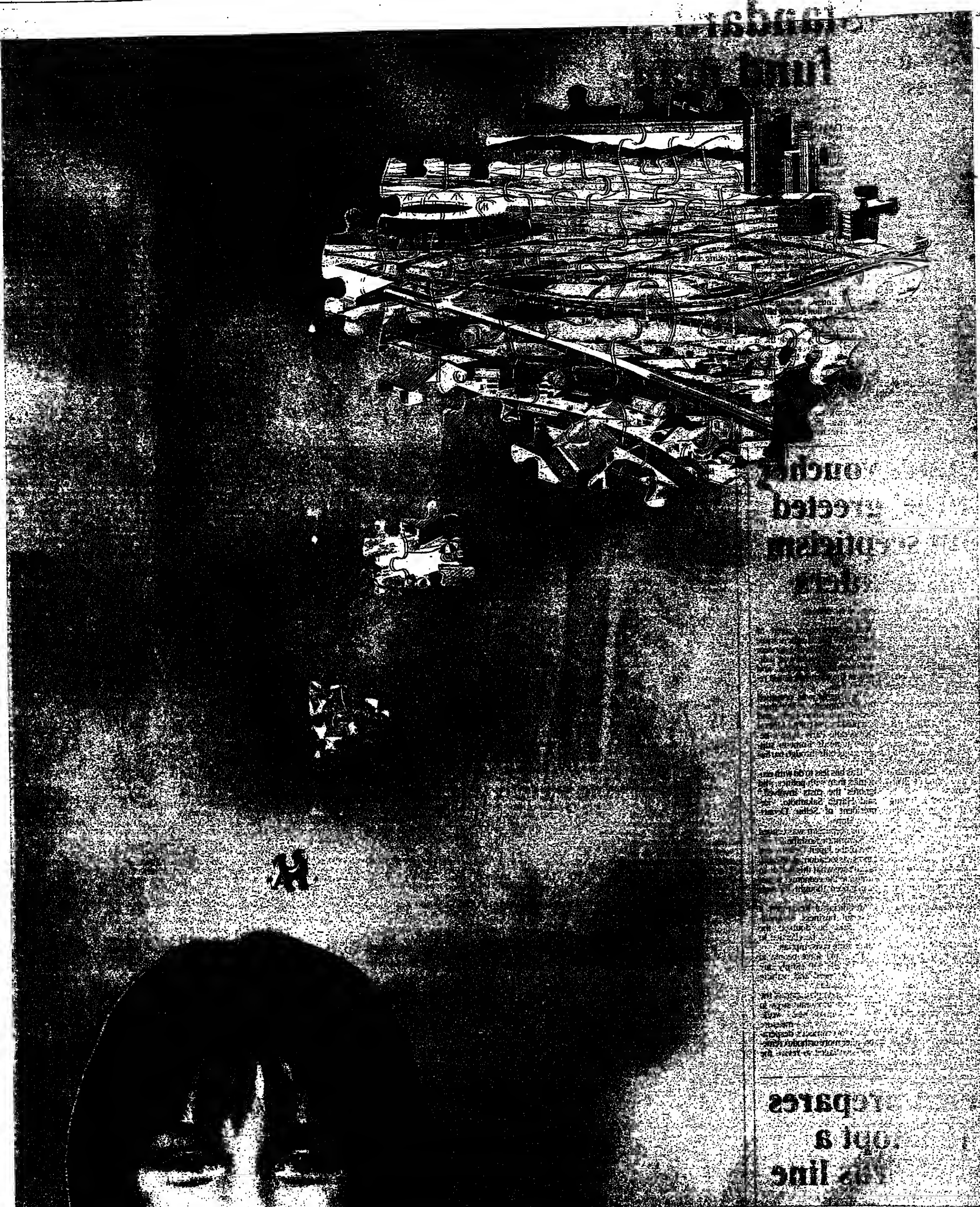


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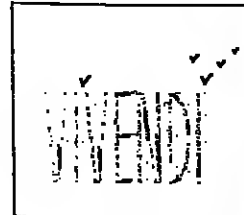
of communications, providing easy access to mobile phone networks, the Internet and digital media.

Reading this, you might deduce that such wide-ranging activities are commensurate with considerable financial growth.

And you'd be right.

Vivendi is one of Europe's largest companies, with an annual turnover approaching £21 billion.

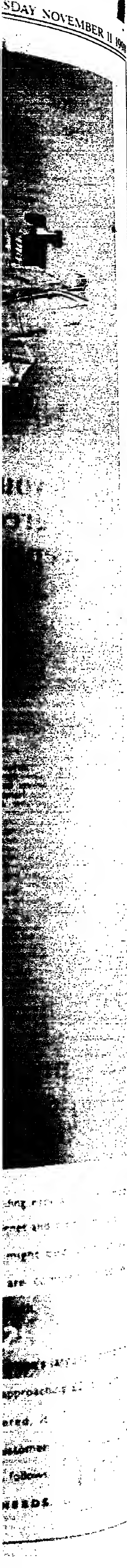
All things considered, it seems that when the customer comes first, success soon follows.



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### Interactive service Open... for business

By Raymond Snoddy  
Media Editor

BRITISH Interactive Broadcasting (BIB), the planned home shopping group yesterday branded itself as Open... and said that it would deliver its first interactive services to the consumer by next spring.

Four retail groups have signed up for the virtual shopping mall - Great Universal Stores, Iceland, Midland Bank and Woolworths.

BIB, launched in May 1997, expects to invest up to £375 million in the venture. Its shareholders are BSkyB, in which News International, owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent interest, BT, Midland Bank and Matsushita.

As well as home shopping and banking, Open... will offer games provided by Visi-onik, a Danish games developer, and Talk 21, a new e-mail system from BT. The first interactive television advertisers will be Coca-Cola, Ford and Unilever. James Ackerman, chief executive of BIB, said that there would be a full marketing launch next autumn.

## Standard Life reveals fund management

By Gavin Lumsden

STANDARD LIFE, the mutual insurer based in Edinburgh, is launching a fund management company in a bid to take on the top investment houses in the City.

As Europe's largest mutual insurer, Standard Life already manages money on behalf of one in seven adults in the UK through its wide range of pensions, annuities and investment products.

Standard Life Investments, the new subsidiary, aims to exploit this track record with an aggressive attack on the retail and institutional investment markets, hoping to increase funds under management from £60 billion to £80 billion over the next five years.

Under Sandy Crombie, chief executive, formerly the insurer's chief investment officer, Standard Life Investments will focus on its key markets in the UK, Canada and Ireland. However, it has ambitions to become a global player.

The subsidiary will employ 500 people housed in a separate office in Edinburgh. It plans to increase staff by up to

7 per cent a year, in contrast with many fund managers who are laying off employees in a bid to cut costs.

Mr Crombie said: "We have been planning this move for four years, during which time we have made significant investments in people and refined our processes."

Standard Life Investments marks a second stage in the insurer's rapid expansion programme. Since launching a banking division at the start of the year, Standard has swept competitors aside, attracting over £1 billion from savers.

Although the launch comes at a tricky time in world financial markets, Standard Life believes fund management offers better margins than its traditional core business of providing pensions.

The new company is planning to take more than 5 per cent of the retail funds market, where it operates mainly through independent financial advisers, and in the corporate pooled funds market where it runs £6.9 billion for institutional clients.



Sandy Crombie, chief executive of Standard Life Investments

## Business Post vows to deliver improved sales

By Chris Ayres

BUSINESS POST, the parcel delivery group, yesterday attempted to put its boardroom troubles behind it, as it pledged to cut costs and improve sales and margins.

The company, whose shares have lost almost a third of their value over the past six months, has seen the recent departure of Mick Jones, its managing director, and Torquil Montague-Johnstone, its finance director. It is expected they will receive £125,000 and £45,000 in compensation respectively.

It is thought that the two men clashed with the company's founders, the brothers Peter and Michael Kane. The brothers have now given up their non-executive roles to become chief executive and managing director respectively.

Peter Fitzwilliam, the former head of finance for Odeon Cinemas, has been appointed finance director.

The boardroom turmoil has resulted in provisions for remuneration of about £500,000.

Business Post yesterday reported a 6 per cent fall in pre-tax profits from £9.4 million to £8.8 million for the six months to September 30, on sales of £52.5 million, up 12.7 per cent from £46.6 million.

Earnings per share fell 7 per cent to 11.6p and an interim dividend of 5p, up from 4.4p, will be paid on January 5.

The company said its administrative expenses had risen by more than £1 million to £6 million. It added: "The board has already set in motion plans to rectify this situation and will be seeking to reduce the cost base of the company."

Neil Benson, chairman, said: "Relative to our market these were satisfactory results. However, the cost base has risen too fast and the new management team has already focused on reducing this, while at the same time increasing our sales effort."

Shares in the company rose 2.5p to 34.5p yesterday.

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## Japan's voucher 'spree' greeted with scepticism by retailers

From Robert Whyment in Tokyo

JAPAN'S innovative scheme to give away shopping vouchers to prompt a consumer-led economic recovery may be the stuff of dreams on Britain's depressed high street, but Japanese shopkeepers are deeply sceptical.

Retailers in Japan remain unconvinced that the handout will trigger the spending spree promised by the politicians who devised the scheme.

Under a plan agreed yesterday, shopping coupons worth ¥20,000 (£98) will be distributed shortly to about 35 million Japanese citizens.

The Government is setting aside ¥700 billion for the vouchers, which are supposed to overcome the resistance of Japanese consumers to opening their wallets.

The idea is that giving away coupons will get people spending, serve to stimulate consumption and help lift the economy out of recession. The economy is in its worst downturn since the Second World War and stagnant domestic demand is the main culprit.

Last week the Government said that household spending dropped 1.5 per cent in September from a year earlier. Uncertainties about pensions and worries about rising unemployment have reinforced the nation's ingrained propensity to save.

Under the plan, vouchers will be given to children under 16, to the bed-ridden and low-

income pensioners aged 65 and over. The vouchers will be used for goods and services such as toys, petrol and haircuts within six months, and only in the town where the recipient lives.

The scheme was proposed by the Komeito, a Buddhist-backed opposition party, and accepted by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party simply because it needs Komeito support to get bills through parliament.

This has less to do with economics than with politics, and ignores the costs involved, said Haruo Sakurida, vice-president of Seibu Department Store.

This scepticism was echoed by Kazumasa Kohribe, chairman of the Japan Department Stores Association, who said: "I can't see what this will do to stimulate the economy. It just hasn't been thought through properly."

An official of Keidanren, a powerful business organisation, said he doubted the scheme would be effective in stimulating consumption.

"You can't force people to stop. People will simply buy what they need and nothing more," he said.

The coupon plan, part of the emergency economic plan to be announced next week, smacks to many of a measure of the Government's desperation, after more orthodox remedies have failed to revive the economy.

## Regal prepares to adopt a new Corus line

By Dominic Walsh

A RECENT trend towards corporate makeovers that has brought us the likes of Diageo, Zeneca and Arriva is about to envelop Regal Hotel Group. In an effort to throw off its dowdy image, the mid-market hotelier is to be reborn as Corus.

The new brand will be rolled out across the group's 91 hotels as part of an £80 million investment launched earlier this year.

As the three-year programme progresses the Regal name will eventually be phased out, at which point the intention is to seek shareholder approval to adopt Corus as the name of the company.

Charles Vere Nicoll, Regal's chairman, admitted that the group had been forced to drop its first choice after it was discovered that the name was used by a small French group. He expressed exasperation at the vast amount of searching one has to do throughout the world to make sure nobody else already has a name.

He said Corus had deliberately been chosen to give the group "a fresh, and modern" appeal, and to address the poor consumer awareness of the Regal name. But he emphasised that Corus would not replace a "notably individual name, but rather be used as an 'umbrella' brand".

The Corus name, which was brought up by the brand N & A of the Company, is based on the word Corus. The then chairman of the company, is that the group is made up of many individual properties and people, each with its own character, yet all joining in to create the whole.

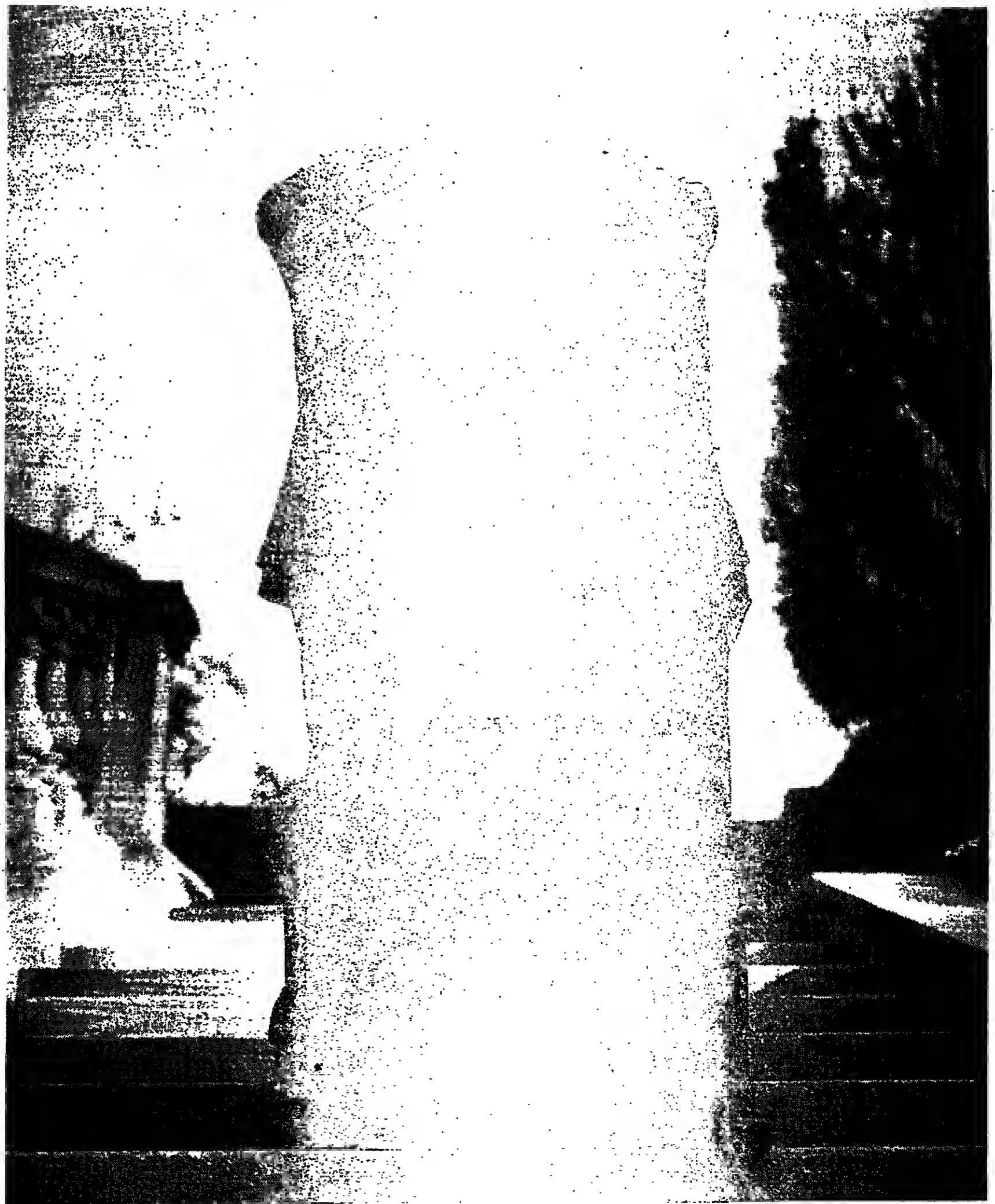
So why not Chorust? The "h" was dropped to fit more comfortably with the design challenge convention.

Mr Vere Nicoll refused to be drawn on the cost of the exercise, but added: "I think it's been done very sensibly in terms of costs."



Dropped "h" as a challenge

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# BASF arm fears gas shortage in Western Europe

FROM CARL MORTSHED IN FRANKFURT

WESTERN EUROPE could face a severe gas shortage and sharply rising prices in the next century unless huge investments are made soon in new supply lines, it was claimed yesterday.

The chief executive of Wintershall, Germany's independent gas supplier and partner of Gazprom, the Russian gas company, predicted that Europe will face a shortfall of 80 billion cubic metres of gas by 2010, even if the initial Yamal pipeline, bringing gas from Siberia across Poland to Germany, is built on time.

Herbert Detharding, chief executive, said: "The current oil price is swinging the pendulum one way but there is no question it will be a seller's market by 2005. Norway is producing as much as it can. Holland is producing as much as it is allowed. Fortunately, there is currently additional supply from the UK North Sea." Mr Detharding said that the supply shortfall would equal two more Yamal pipelines: "If you want another US\$25 billion (£15 billion) project finished in time you had better start talking about financing it now."

His comments coincided with the news that Wintershall's parent, BASF, the German chemical combine, had suffered a 10 per cent decline in profits in the third quarter. The company gave warning that 1999 would be a difficult year and admitted that it would fail to achieve its target return on assets of 13 per cent.

Dr Jurgen Strube, chairman of BASF, said that the return on assets for 1998 would even undershoot the previous year's figure of 12.6 per cent.

BASF's headline pre-tax profit for the third quarter was up 12 per cent to DM1.5 billion (£57 million) but Mr Strube said that the figure included the benefit of disposals as well as special charges in the previous year. He predicted that profits would be slightly ahead for the full year.

Dr Strube said that the German Government's plans for energy taxes would hurt the company, costing BASF DM130 million a year at its Ludwigshafen plant. Falling sales in Asia and South America contributed to a 7 per cent fall in third-quarter revenue.

Wingas, Wintershall's joint venture with Gazprom, has

captured more than 12 per cent of the German gas market and BASF is forecasting that its earnings will increase fivefold by 2001.

Dr Strube said that a separate stock market listing for Wintershall was something the company had considered. "It is something we think about but we think at the moment it is better within BASF."

Mr Detharding said that more money needed to be spent to ensure that Siberian supplies arrived at the German border. Gazprom is building the Russian section of the 4,000km pipeline but the company is under financial pressure at home, with billions of dollars in bad debts due to non-payment by domestic customers for gas.

Wingas recently completed a pipeline link-up to the UK-Continent gas interconnector, which will allow surplus UK gas to be exported directly to Germany's industrial powerhouse in the North Rhine Westphalia region. The company plans to sell capacity to rivals, hoping to stimulate free competition in pipeline capacity, so far refused by Ruhrgas, the main competitor of Wingas.



Plane speaking: Terry Garthwaite, group finance director, left, with Andrew Parrish

## Paramount set for acquisition trail

PARAMOUNT, the tenanted pub group based in Chester, is to hit the acquisition trail after putting its past problems behind it. Christopher Mills, who was appointed chairman at the time of a rights issue in January 1997, is to step down after overseeing the group's financial reconstruction and its return to profitability.

Yesterday, Mr Mills unveiled a recovery from losses of £1.4 million to a pre-tax profit of £539,000 in the year to May 31, with fully diluted earnings per share reaching 2.71p, compared with losses last year of 7.04p, which were caused by property writedowns and bad debts. There is still no dividend, however. A spokesman for Paramount, in which Nomura is a 10 per cent shareholder, said: "This is now a clean company with 150 pubs in the North West and it is looking to build the business by actively seeking deals. They are looking at all the options, be it sale and leasebacks or securitisation or acquiring other pubs."

## Tilemaker in black

PILKINGTON'S TILES, formerly known as Quilgott, returned to profit in the first half of this year, earning £1.6 million before tax in the six months to September 30, compared with a loss of £323,000 in the first half of the previous year. Earnings were 0.6p a share, against losses of 0.3p last time. There is again no interim dividend but the company said it was "increasingly confident" of being able to pay a final dividend. The shares were unchanged at 11p yesterday. The company said net debt had been reduced by £922,000 to £4.8 million since the last year end, giving gearing of 34.5 per cent.

## Capita completes stake

CAPITA GROUP, the outsourcing company, is to acquire the outstanding 33 per cent stake it does not own in Equitable Revenue Holdings for £8.2 million. Equitable is a debt recovery company serving the local government sector. In 1997 the company earned pre-tax profits of £2.65 million on turnover of £11.4 million. Net assets were £1.96 million at the last year end. Paul Pinder, managing director of Capita, said the acquisition would give access to Equitable's call centre and customer services infrastructure to assist other parts of the company involved in revenue collection.

## BA signs for Airbus

BRITISH AIRWAYS has signed a purchase agreement for 59 single-aisle Airbus aircraft. The contract is the first firm order arising from the airline's announcement in August that it would buy up to 188 A320 aircraft, making Airbus the main supplier of its single-aisle short-haul fleet. All will be powered by IAE engines. The order is the first that BA has placed directly with Airbus. This week, BA said that it was cutting back its planned increase in seat capacity next year from 8 per cent to 2 per cent as the world economic slowdown hits air travel.

## SB to help smokers

SMITHKLINE Beecham is to spend £12 million on the UK launch of its smoking cessation patches, which are to be offered with specially tailored advice for each smoker who uses them. The nicotine replacement patches, which will be called NicQuin CQ in the UK, will come with a free phone number that will allow customers to give details of their smoking habits to SmithKline Beecham. After analysing the information, the healthcare company will within 48 hours dispatch a "behavioural support plan" to give the most appropriate advice.

## UK mergers fall back

TOTAL UK mergers and acquisitions activity fell back sharply in the third quarter of this year, at £12.5 billion, compared with £19.8 billion in the preceding quarter, yesterday's official figures showed. The component that slowed the most was domestic acquisitions by UK companies, which fell from £11.9 billion in the second quarter to £5.7 billion in the third. With the total number of intra-UK acquisitions remaining high, the figures suggested a greater number of mid- and small-cap deals taking place.

## Atrium Cockell deal

LOMOND UNDERWRITING, the Lloyd's company, is to merge with privately owned Atrium Cockell Group. Lomond is issuing 13.2 million new shares to the vendors of Atrium Cockells, valued at £25 million at the price of 194½p at which the shares remain suspended. Atrium Cockell's two managed syndicates 570 and 609 have a capacity for the 1999 year of account of about £116 million. Sir Raymond Johnstone, chairman of Lomond, will chair the enlarged group, called Atrium Underwriting. Shares begin trading on December 3.

## Ashtene expands

ASHTENE HOLDINGS, the property investment company specialising in the industrial sector, has acquired four additional industrial estates in the Midlands for £5.5 million, showing an initial yield of 11.5 per cent. Three properties in Derby, Nottingham and West Bromwich were acquired from IM Properties for £4.7 million and a property in Brackley, Northamptonshire, was acquired from the receivers of LPA. Last month, Ashtene also completed six disposals, raising £2.2 million.

## Columbus purchase

COLUMBUS GROUP, the provider of information to business and the consumer sector, is buying EFM Publishing, publisher of *European Fund Manager* magazine, for a profit-related consideration of up to £2 million. The magazine was founded in January 1996 and is distributed to 9,000 fund managers and investment institutions in 20 countries. EFM earned pre-tax profits of £141,000 on turnover of £752,000 in the year to January 31.

## Senior beefs up aerospace unit with Jet deal

BY ADAM JONES

SENIOR ENGINEERING is beefing up its aerospace division with the purchase of Jet Products, an American parts supplier to both Boeing and Airbus, for £33.7 million.

The acquisition is the biggest yet made by Senior, whose chief executive is Andrew Parrish, and comes as aircraft makers and airlines prepare for a slowdown in growth.

Glenn Timms, director of corporate development at Senior, said that when the aircraft market comes off its cyclical peak, probably in 1999, Jet will have the advantage of selling more parts for short-haul planes than long haul.

Some industry observers have predicted that demand for short-haul airliners will be strongest in the next few years. BA said earlier this week that it was switching to smaller aircraft on some routes to reduce overall capacity and increase profits.

Jet is based in San Diego and made pre-tax profits of about £5 million in the year to

September 30 on sales of about £27.2 million. It makes rings and flanges for turbine markets.

The Senior deal will enrich Ronald Blair, the president of Jet and owner of 40 per cent of the company, by £13.5 million. Mr Blair, who will stay with Jet as general manager, will take £2.4 million of this payment in Senior shares, which, like most companies in the engineering sector, have tumbled in the past few months. Since the summer, when they reached a high of 245½p, the shares have nearly halved in value.

Mr Timms said the group may make more small acquisitions, possibly in its automotive division, where Senior supplies flexible connectors and other parts mainly to the American market.

He said interest cover after the Jet deal will stand at about eight times but it is unlikely that Senior will go below six times.

Tempus, page 28

## UMECO looks to spend £20m

BY SAAED SHAH

UMECO, the aerospace parts and service group, is seeking acquisitions and could spend up to £20 million on the right deal without needing to go to the equity market.

The company yesterday announced the sale of its Fluid Transfer subsidiary for £7.15 million. It has a £10 million credit line in place with bankers and the disposal will boost net cash reserves to £8 million.

Clive Snowdon, chief executive, said UMECO, which has just secured an 11-year contract to supply Rolls-Royce, is hoping to conclude at least one acquisition before March 1999. He said that the sale of

Fluid Transfer completed the reorganisation of the group.

There now remains only one non-aerospace business in the company, GRP Material Supplies, a glass fibre distributor.

"There has been no slowdown in civil aviation orders and we expect the military side to pick up with the boost from the Eurofighter project," Mr Snowdon said.

Pre-tax profit for the six months to September 30 was up 33 per cent from last time at £2.7 million, with turnover 17 per cent higher at £26.7 million. Earnings per share were 12.0p (9.7p) and the interim dividend is 2.4p (2.1p).

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The event is free but if you would like to make a donation to charity, call Great Ormond Street Donation telephone line: 0171-916 5678, or send a cheque, made payable to Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity, to: Great Ormond Street Fundraising Dept, 40-41 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AJ.

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THE TIMES WELL

# Nissan as Ja car sale

# Espresso chain to ste ahead wi expansion p

# Ryanair prof up 24% as ne routes take o



# Nissan in red as Japanese car sales slump

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

NISSAN announced a net loss of 32.55 billion yen (£159.6 million) for the half-year to the end of September and said that it expected a consolidated net loss of ¥30 billion for the full year.

Japan's second-biggest car manufacturer, which had previously forecast that it would break even, said that a severe slump in domestic car sales and large appraisal losses on securities holdings would bring about its sixth consolidated net loss in seven years.

First-half sales fell 7.7 per cent, with domestic sales down 11.8 per cent, and exports sliding 3.6 per cent.

Nissan's performance in Europe provided a shaft of light in an otherwise bleak picture. The company projected a ¥5 billion profit for the full fiscal year from its operations in Europe, including plants in the UK and Spain. But officials declined to give

a breakdown for each of its manufacturing and sales operations, and would not say how a drastic restructuring and cost-cutting drive might affect the Sunderland plant or individual operations in Europe.

Nissan said that it had lowered its forecast for domestic and overseas vehicle production. It now expected a ¥5 billion loss in America, compared with an initial break-even forecast. Nissan expects a ¥10 billion loss in Mexico due in large part to the peso's slide against the dollar.

Hit by the fall in Japanese share prices, Nissan said it suffered an appraisal loss of ¥76 billion on its securities holdings.

Kanemitsu Anraku, managing director, emphasised that the company would step up aggressive efforts to trim costs, cut debts and reduce the number of models.

He said: "The situation has grown more severe, and we'll have to consider additional steps if our reform plans are insufficient."

In its large-scale restructuring programme, Nissan has sold off part of its Tokyo headquarters, shed assets including an advertising subsidiary, and has embarked on reducing the number of models and vehicle platforms. The company hopes to reduce its debts, which currently stand at ¥3,900 billion, by about ¥400 billion during the current financial year.

Nissan's range is widely seen as unexciting, and financial constraints have hindered development of completely new models. The result is that Nissan has suffered more than its principal rivals Toyota and Honda from Japan's worsening recession and consumers' deep reluctance to spend.



John Morgan says Porvair suffered difficult trading conditions in the third quarter and a restructuring plan is now in place

## Porvair shares slide as loss looms

SHARES of Porvair fell 11 1/2p yesterday after the manufacturer of microporous materials said it expected to incur a pre-tax loss in the current year (Martin Barrow writes).

John Morgan, chairman, said the company had experienced difficult trading across many of its activities in the third quarter of the year, which normally accounts for more than 50 per cent of annual profits on some 30 per cent of sales. As a result, group turnover in the year to the end of this month was now expected

to be 10 per cent lower than in 1997. A number of restructuring measures are now being implemented, giving rise to an exceptional charge of £3 million, plunging the company into the red. In 1997 Porvair earned pre-tax profits of £6.8 million.

Porvair has suffered from weak export demand due to the strong pound. Some 80 per cent of the group's UK production is sold overseas.

The distribution businesses of Porvair Fabrics, Socks and Permair Leathers will incur losses of more than £2 million.

Sales from filtration and footwear have been hard hit and Porvair Ceramics has seen orders postponed until next year.

Cost-cutting measures will include a 14 per cent reduction in the workforce, with some loss-making businesses closed and marginal product lines discontinued.

Yesterday's share price fall saw £28.68 million wiped off Porvair's market value to around £33 million. Mr Morgan said: "Core businesses remain profitable in these difficult times. Cashflow is strong. Trading prospects for 1999 are good."

## OfTel cuts back in drive for flexibility

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE TELECOMS watchdog has overhauled the way it operates in order to respond more speedily to business and customers.

The shake-up has cut the key departments in the organisation from ten to two. David Edmonds, the telecoms regulator, said that would enable a more flexible response to communication companies seeking guidance and to customers making complaints.

While OfTel has been praised in the past for its decision-making, it has been criticised for the length of time it has taken to make judgments. This has been seen as problematic for such a quickly developing industry.

Mr Edmonds implemented the changes after being questioned by the Public Accounts Committee, the parliamentary spending watchdog.

OfTel is to have its funding increased by the Treasury from £10.5 million to £11.7 million to pay for extra resources.

## Espresso bar chain to steam ahead with expansion plan

BY DOMINIC WALSH

SHARES in Coffee Republic, the espresso bar chain, frothed 30 per cent higher yesterday as the AIM-listed group unveiled better than expected maiden half-year results.

Turnover for the six months to September 30 soared from £600,000 to £1.9 million although losses reached £700,000 due to rapid expansion allied to a conservative accounting policy on opening expenses. However, this was ahead of broker forecasts of about £850,000 at the time of the group's listing 12 months ago. It joined the market through a reverse takeover of Arion Properties.

Like-for-like sales grew by an impressive 24 per cent and the shares, which had dived from a high in March of 27p on fears of an economic slowdown, rose 3p higher to 13p.

Since March the group has more than doubled in size from 11 stores to 25 - its 25th opens in York on Friday - and it expects to have about 35

by next spring. The company does not disclose capital expenditure levels, but new stores are thought to cost an average of about £150,000.

Bobby Hashemi, managing director of Coffee Republic, said the company was "right on schedule" with its development programme and was seeing no sign of any slowdown in sales. "I'm not saying we're recession-proof, but our average spend, at south of £250 a head, clearly puts us in a comfortable position vis-a-vis other retailers. We are a small ticket item."

He said that signs of a softening in property prices were also benefiting its expansion programme, particularly in London where most of its new stores are planned.

However, it is also considering opportunities in Birmingham, Liverpool, Leeds and Manchester. "At this stage we have enough cash to last us until next summer," said Mr Hashemi.

## Ryanair profits up 24% as new routes take off

BY SAAED SHAH

RYANAIR, Ireland's cut-price airline, yesterday said record first-half figures for passenger traffic, revenues and profits reflected the successful launch of six new routes from London to Europe.

The company announced a 24 per cent rise in pre-tax profits in the six months to Sept-

ember 30 at Ir£29.38 million (£26.71 million), on turnover of Ir£130.46 million, against Ir£96.90 million last time. Earnings were Ir13.75p a share, up from Ir11.84p.

Michael O'Leary, chief executive, said he was optimistic about the rest of the financial year despite the intense competition at the low fare end of the market.

He said that the success of the new routes, which had been profitable since their launch, showed that the company was "taking low fare competition to BA, SAS, Alitalia and Air France".

Mr O'Leary said Ryanair was concerned that the lack of consumer confidence in the UK may hit demand. But he added: "Ryanair is well positioned with substantial cash, a strong balance sheet and the lowest cost base which will enable it to withstand any short-term downturns."



O'Leary: cause for optimism

## Record sales send Wal-Mart past \$1bn

WAL-MART Stores, the world's largest retailer, achieved record sales that drove third-quarter net income above the \$1 billion mark (£602 million) for the second quarter in a row.

The American operator of discount stores and Sam's Club warehouses reported profits of \$1.009 billion, or 45 cents per share, up 27.4 per cent from \$792 million a year

ago. Third-quarter sales rose 16.4 per cent to a record \$33.5 billion from \$28.7 billion.

At the end of October the company had 1,863 Wal-Mart stores, 543 Supercenters, and 450 Sam's Clubs in the US.

The group has more than 600 operations internationally. Worldwide, the company employs almost 900,000 people, of which 780,000 are based in the US.

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Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund type (e.g., Bond, Equity, Money Market) and listing various fund names with their respective prices and performance metrics.

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Equities mark time

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Main table containing various equity price listings categorized by sectors: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SHORTS (under 5 years), LONGS (over 15 years), MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years), SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER.

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THE TIMES ARTS

ARCHITECTURE Ten cheers for the restored Royal Exchange PAGE 56



RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie. LONDON BORIS GODUNOV: Francesca Zambello directs a new production for the ENO of Mussorgsky's epic portrait of the tyrant whose guilt caused by past misdeeds plunges him into insanity.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingstons's choice of theatre showing in London. House full, returns only. Seats at all prices. THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST: Touring production with Lisa Goddard as Lady Bracknell and Don Byrne as Miss Prism.

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies. NEW RELEASES ANTI-Z (PG): Neurotic art made himself a new hero. Ingrida's computer-generated animation, mediated to the voices of Woody Allen, Sharon Stone and Sylvester Stallone.



Ian McKellen as Dr Dorn and Clare Higgins as Irina Arkadina are both excellent in Jude Kelly's engrossing production of Chekhov's The Seagull

Take me, I'm yours

Ian McKellen has been telling anybody who will listen that he is tired of London, London theatres and London audiences; but, on the evidence of the first of the three performances he is giving at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, he is not also tired of life.

THEATRE

Nina; and the presence of the excellent Clare Higgins in Kelly's company ensures that this is still somewhat the case. But her Arkadina is not the egomaniacal diva of theatrical tradition. True, she wears a series of florid dresses. True, she uses her actress's wiles to lure Trigorin beneath the dining-room tablecloth.

she neglects, and is artlessly delighted by their seeming reconciliation at the end. Although he cuts a cooler, more intellectual figure than is customary, you don't doubt that Will Keen's Kostia is obsessed with Nina and, although her initial feelings seem abnormally puppyish, you know by the end that Claudie Blakley's Nina is abjectly besotted with Trigorin.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

AS LONG as muffins and cucumber sandwiches are scooped in the shires, Oscar Wilde's 103-year-old classic The Importance of Being Earnest will stalk our stages like an eccentric, elderly matron.

Sprightly old dear

like a Victorian sofa and bristling with contempt, Liza Goddard's fierce Bracknell advances on Ernest as if she were going to dismember him for daring to propose to her daughter, Gwendolen.

of lechery in her voice when she declares to the venerable Reverend Shadable that ripeness can be trusted. Meanwhile, Robin Lermitt's Ernest slopes gloomily from one piece of furniture to another as if this ritual might somehow help to change his name from plain old John Worthing to the Earnest that Tracey Child's intimidating Gwendolen so imperiously demands.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER CLIVE DAVIS

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THEATRES

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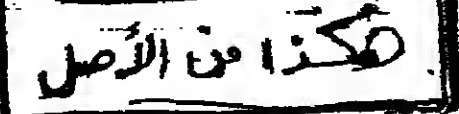
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Making the wave

Swedish star... Carol Allen

Beanfeast Zulu rhythm

Large advertisement for 'The Seagull' production, featuring a portrait of Ian McKellen and promotional text.



# Making the waves

**FILM:** Sweden's Stellan Skarsgård is on course for international stardom. Carol Allen met him

Although he has been an actor for more than 30 years, Stellan Skarsgård made audiences in this country sit up and take notice two years ago when he played Emily Watson's paralysed husband in the Cannes Grand Prix winner *Breaking the Waves*. "It was extremely claustrophobic," the Swedish actor remembers.

"Usually I don't sit still for five minutes when I'm filming. I pace back and forth on the set all the day but there I was strapped into a bed and it was terrible." This week Skarsgård suffers from a different on-screen disability as a detective on the trail of a murderer in the Norwegian director Erik Skoldbjærg's debut feature *Insomnia*. Although ostensibly a murder mystery, the film is really a character study of a man whose inner demons are brought to light in the Arctic summer of the land of the midnight sun.

"He's already on his way to breakdown when he comes there," explains Skarsgård. "The continual bright light is partly an image of what's going on inside him and also a trigger for his imbalance. Because he can't sleep, it makes him more vulnerable and breaks him down faster. He's trying desperately to stay in control, to protect his facade of being the perfect cop. What attracted me to the role was that everything was going on inside him and he was not letting anything out. He's like a pressure cooker."

**"I'm definitely not a pin-up. I don't have the body"**

While Skarsgård did not himself suffer from insomnia, he did find working in 24-hour daylight an unending experience. "It creates a certain kind of confusion. You rarely get sleep but you do get tired and your body clock gets totally mixed up. My kids were out playing at two o'clock in the morning." The film was shot in Skoldbjærg's home town of Tromsø which, despite the romantic image of sunlight on snow implicit in the "land of the midnight sun" tag, comes over as a desolate and brutally industrialised part of the world.

"Erik's not very romantic about his home town," says Skarsgård. "But the bleakness and ugliness that he shows in the film suit the story very well." Although the film is made in Norwegian, Skarsgård's character is Swedish and he speaks his own language. "The three languages, Danish, Swedish and Norwegian, are basically the same. There are some words that are different and the pronunciation is very different but we can understand each other."

Skarsgård has appeared in a dozen or more Swedish films. Some of them, such as Sven Nykvist's *The Ox* and Ake Sandgren's *The Sling-shot*, have been widely praised outside his own country. But in the past few years he has been seen increasingly in English-speaking roles and, in a similar way to fellow Swede Max von Sydow some 25 years ago, Skarsgård now seems on course for international screen fame.

As well as *Breaking the Waves*, he was recently seen as the abolitionist Lewis Tappan in Spielberg's slave drama *Amistad* and the envious mathematics professor in *Good Will Hunting*. He was also Denis Quaid's sidekick in the Bosnian war drama *Savior* and the lascivious German businessman in Hanif Kureishi's *My Son the Fanatic*. Next week he opens here in John Frankenheimer's action thriller *Ronin*, in which he, Robert De Niro and Jean Reno are part of an international team of espionage mercenaries made redundant by the end of the Cold War, who are hired to steal a mysterious briefcase. In contrast to the internalised action of *Insomnia*, *Ronin* is virtually non-stop external action, with spectacular car chases all over France.

"Action films are fun and quite refreshing if you don't do them all the time, but it's a different technique," Skarsgård explains. "The scenes are never about the characters. You have to try to squeeze some character into a scene which is really about forwarding the plot and give the audience the feeling that he has other dimensions even if he's only showing one."

For the character he plays in *Ronin*, who is, he says, "totally mysterious and never explained, I made up this enormous back story which actually makes him in his eyes a good guy, even though that doesn't show in the movie."

There is more action for Skarsgård in *The Deep Blue Sea*, a film he made recently in Mexico. "I play shark food," he says dryly. "I get eaten about an hour into the film. The story is about scientists on a research platform out at sea, who are experimenting with genetic tampering on sharks to enhance the size of their brains, which they think will provide a cure for Alzheimer's. But the experiments make the sharks get smarter. I'm the first scientist to be eaten."

Skarsgård started acting as a child and at 16 starred in a popular Swedish television series. He then joined the Royal Dramatic Theatre in Stockholm, where he stayed for 16 years. "I learnt my craft by carrying spears, going in and out in different wigs and false beards, and by emulating or rather stealing from older and more talented actors. But I made sure that I stole from a variety of actors so that no one could trace the theft."

Skarsgård is now a young-looking 47, tall, with slightly receding fair hair and warm blue eyes, sometimes half hidden behind scholarly, wide-rimmed spectacles. He has been happily married for 24 years and has six children ranging in age from 22 to two and a half, but he also has the sort of magnetism which turns female heads when he walks into the room. It's a power he modestly denies. "I can't see myself in that light. I'm definitely not a pin-up. I don't have the body for it."



Busy Swede: with the Norwegian mystery *Insomnia* out this week, and the Hollywood thriller *Ronin* released next week, *Breaking the Waves* star Stellan Skarsgård is going global

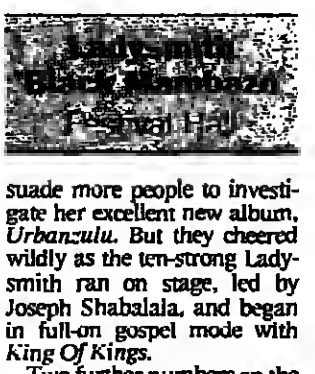
**POP:** World music's exuberant chart-topping superstars come to London; one of Nashville's finest comes of age; and a Seventies icon starts to show hers

## Beanfeast for Zulu rhythms

Monday was world music night on the South Bank with the centre's three concert halls offering a mouth-watering choice of Virginia Rodrigues from Brazil, Orchestre National de Barbes from north Africa, and South Africa's unlikely chart toppers, Ladysmith Black Mambazo. I opted for the latter and if it was frustrating that such fine concerts should clash, it was at least gratifying that roots music, still regarded as a "minority" interest, can sell out all three venues on the same evening.

Ladysmith have had a remarkable 12 months and are now enjoying the greatest commercial success of their career. Although the Zulu troupe was formed 30 years ago, they only emerged on to a world stage when Paul Simon invited them to appear on his *Graceland* album in 1988. Last year their a cappella voices featured in the Heinz baked beans television commercial and the exposure resulted in a Top 20 single with *Inkanyiso Nezazi*. Last month they released *The Star and the Wise man*, a compilation of their best recordings from the past dozen years. The album swiftly went platinum, with only Phil Collins keeping their unaccompanied tribal harmonies from the No 1 spot.

As a result this was not your regular world-music audience but a far wider cross-section of the record-buying public. Most had clearly not heard of Busi Mhlongo, who warmed them up with a dose of Zulu funk which will hopefully per-



suade more people to investigate her excellent new album, *Urbanzulu*. But they cheered wildly as the ten-strong Ladysmith ran on stage, led by Joseph Shabalala, and began in full-on gospel mode with *King Of Kings*.

Two further numbers on the theme of peace, love and understanding caused a few to fidget but Shabalala knew exactly how to pace the show and launched into *Abdala*, an amusing song about the generation gap. They followed with *Hello My Baby*, a slice of 1950s doo-wop South African style. Shabalala's soft voice off-set against the deeper tones of the rest of the troupe and the percussion provided by clinking tongues and other inventive vocal effects.

The limitations of an all-vocal group were easily surmounted by the sheer exuberance of their show but for the woman behind it was too much of a good thing. "Why can't they stop grinning and waving just for one song?" she complained. She was a lone voice and when the audience recognised *Inkanyiso Nezazi* from the Heinz advert they raised the roof before *Homeless*, the song Shabalala wrote for Simon, proved a fitting finale to an uplifting evening.

**NIGEL WILLIAMSON**

## The grey's showing

The most glamorous and commercially successful group to emerge from New York's late-Seventies rock scene, Blondie mixed punk attitude with pop sensibility, brought disco and rap to mainstream attention, then dissolved in illness and acrimony in 1982. On Monday night, fielding four original members and two new recruits, the band's first reunion tour for more than 15 years kicked off at Wolverhampton Civic Hall. Alas, they have not grown old gracefully.

At 53, singer Deborah Harry is two years younger than Mick Jagger and six behind Tina Turner. Her glacial beauty and wozzily sensual voice have both diminished, but only slightly. Thus it was hardly a question of age which marred her performance on Monday, more one of dignity. During Blondie's prime, Harry seemed aloof and indestructible, a post-feminist bridge between Marilyn Monroe and Madonna. By now she ought to be the Catherine Deneuve of pop, iconic and untouchable. But in Wolverhampton she behaved more like Jennifer Saunders in *Absolutely Fabulous*, romping clumsily across the stage, delivering ever more eccentric shrieks and bizarre facial expressions.

In fairness, veteran Blondie fans could scarcely have wished for a more glowering set. Aside from a few anodyne tasters for the band's new album, *No Exit*, scheduled for release early next year, every song was a former chart hit or much-loved album track. From the saccharine sighs of *Sunday Girl* to the futuristic

### Blondie Wolverhampton

melodrama of *Atomic*, this show was a persuasive reminder that Blondie were once a pop singles band par excellence. Sadly, it also highlighted how passionless and pedestrian these archive gems can sound in the drearily prosaic context of a live show.

Perhaps the chief problem is that Blondie were always more of a studio creation than an orthodox rock group. They were as much Pop Art as pop, a highly stylised and wilfully synthetic product whose impressive run of hit singles in the late Seventies owed a heavy debt to British bubblegum pop producer Mike Chapman. Inevitably, strip-

ped of its studio sheen, much of their set created and wheezed where once it would have sparkled and sored. But Harry did the songs few favours either. Having recently carved a second career as a jazz singer, she introduced some shrill scat-rap improvisations into the lilting reggae serenade *The Tide Is High* which were simply embarrassing. She finally won the crowd over during the final encore of *Heart Of Glass*, a million-selling chart-topper back in 1979, but even this was more a case of warm nostalgia than mass hysteria. It would be unfair to declare Blondie's reunion tour a disaster on the evidence of this shaky opening night, but it certainly trashed a few food memories.

**STEPHEN DALTON**

## Girl from the wild country

Reviewing the *New American Music* show at the Albert Hall in 1995, I described one of its stars, Trisha Yearwood, as perhaps Nashville's best-kept international secret. Despite already standing tall in country music's winners' circle, she was a specialist taste here. So it was a joy on Yearwood's latest return to see that the secret is out.

Spirits were first warmed on Sunday evening by Alison Moorer, whose rich and sensual tones were heard on *A Soft Place To Fall* in the Robert Redford movie *The Horse Whisperer*. That and others from her *Alabama Song* album made an inviting entrée.

Yearwood, firing up the band for an opening *Perfect Love*, was soon reminiscing with customary humility about her first British performance at the Shaw Theatre in 1993, when she carried the day despite laryngitis and nerves. Five years and several million record sales later, she slaps

### Trisha Yearwood

her thigh with a confidence befitting the Country Music Association's Female Vocalist of the Year for this year and last.

Breaking the chains of the 35-minute warm-up she has performed on Garth Brooks's record-breaking world tour — a role she resumes in Belfast tonight — Yearwood took her *Songbook* compilation as the basis of this set, freely daubing it with extra colour from the current *Where Your Road Leads*. We were soon remind-

ed of an interpretative sensitivity that recalls a time when premium voices looked long and hard for material worthy of their imprimatur.

Hugh Prestwood's *The Song Remembers When* and Alice Randall and Matraca Berg's *XXX's and OOO's* were among those thus endorsed, and Yearwood's artistry was further emphasised by her spontaneous eulogising about that treasured songbook. Another Berg co-composition, *The Wrong Side of Memphis*, was given rockier licks via a new arrangement by Yearwood's husband, Robert Reynolds of the Mavericks.

Diane Warren's ubiquitous *How Do I Live*, with which Yearwood had the country hit while LeAnn Rimes was making the popular mint, had the seal of maturity to it, but the best was saved almost for last with the sublime Gretchen Peters composition *On a Bus to St Cloud*.

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**KIERAN O'BRIEN**

Age: "You can say 'early twenties.' Actually, he's 24.

Profession: Actor.

Why so coy about his age? "It's not vanity, it's just that my age is not relevant to the work I'm doing."

Virgin territory I: Already something of a TV veteran, his second stage role, and National Theatre debut, comes as Laurence, the 17-year-old "desperate to lose his virginity" in Jonathan Harvey's new play, *Guiding Star*, which opens at the Cottesloe tonight after a successful run at the Liverpool Everyman.

Research and responsibility: Laurence's father, Terry, remains traumatised by his and his sons' experiences at the Hillsborough disaster, and although *Guiding Star* is "definitely not just about Hillsborough", O'Brien read the Taylor report and other relevant material. "Everybody in Liverpool has a connection to that tragedy, so it would have been terrible for me to have come to the city and done a play dealing with Hillsborough without really knowing the subject."

Virgin territory II: He will be in cinemas next February as Alex, "a loud show-off" who is determined to relieve a naive heroine of her virginity in *Virtual Sexuality*, a campus comedy drama.

Child star: Growing up in Manchester, his life changed at the age of nine. "I met an agent who said 'Come and have your picture taken' and two weeks later I was on a film set as an extra. It was that simple... I had no ambition to become an actor but immediately realised that I just loved being on set."

Formal tuition — who needs it? "I don't think drama school would really have been for me. I've spent so long working with really good professionals — what better training could you have than that?"

Work ethic: "If the material's good, I'd happily be on set 365 days a year."

**DANIEL ROSENTHAL**

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Exchange reborn in blaze of glory

Two years after the bomb, Manchester's magnificent theatre has been restored and transformed. Marcus Binney reports

On November 30 Manchester will have the most fabulous modern theatre in Britain. Ravishing colour and light will enliven not just the auditorium but every part of the soaring 125ft-high classical hall in which the Royal Exchange Theatre stands.

By day, light will flood in abundance through three huge domes in the roof, bathing darker areas in an ethereal glow even on a dull day. By night, special plasma lights will inaugurate a whole new era in the illumination of both modern and historic buildings.

Of course, the theatre was a sensation when it opened in 1976, a £1.2 million moon-landing craft standing futuristically in Manchester's magnificent Edwardian Cotton Exchange. Then, and for the next 20 years, what struck was the contrast between the gleaming white steel of the theatre module (as it was called) and the tobacco dark colonnades and arches above.

Manchester's Cotton Exchange, which closed in 1968, was grander by far than London's Stock Exchange. A vastly enlarged exchange was completed in 1874, and then doubled in size between 1914 and 1922 (though the earlier hall was destroyed by bombs in 1940). Its colonnades and arches are on the scale of ancient Roman baths, its perspectives redolent of opulent 18th-century stage designs.

Now, after a £14 million refit, old and new don't contrast but work in harmony. The hall is subtle, even mysterious, in its colours: the module (and the dome above) brilliant in palest cream, blue and saffron.

The impetus came from the IRA bomb which devastated Manchester on June 15, 1996. Amazingly, though the three Edwardian domes rose from their footings and every pane of glass cascaded to the ground, the glass-enclosed theatre was undamaged. As Axel Burrough, of the architects Levitt Bernstein, explains: "For acoustic reasons, the module sits on industrial shock absorbers which took the force of the blast."

The idea of a theatre in the round had come from the stage designer Richard Negri. Braham Murray,

the theatre director who was also part of the original team, explains: "Richard rejected the standard proscenium arch as a Roman aberration. For him the great ages of theatre were in Ancient Greek and Elizabethan times, when the actors were right out in front and little or no scenery was used."

They carried out an experimental season in a tented structure within the Exchange before commissioning Levitt Bernstein to build a permanent theatre in the round. "The floor was not strong enough to take the weight of 700 people and 100 tons of steel," Burrough explains. "So we supported the auditorium from two big bridge trusses set into the massive pillars holding up the dome."

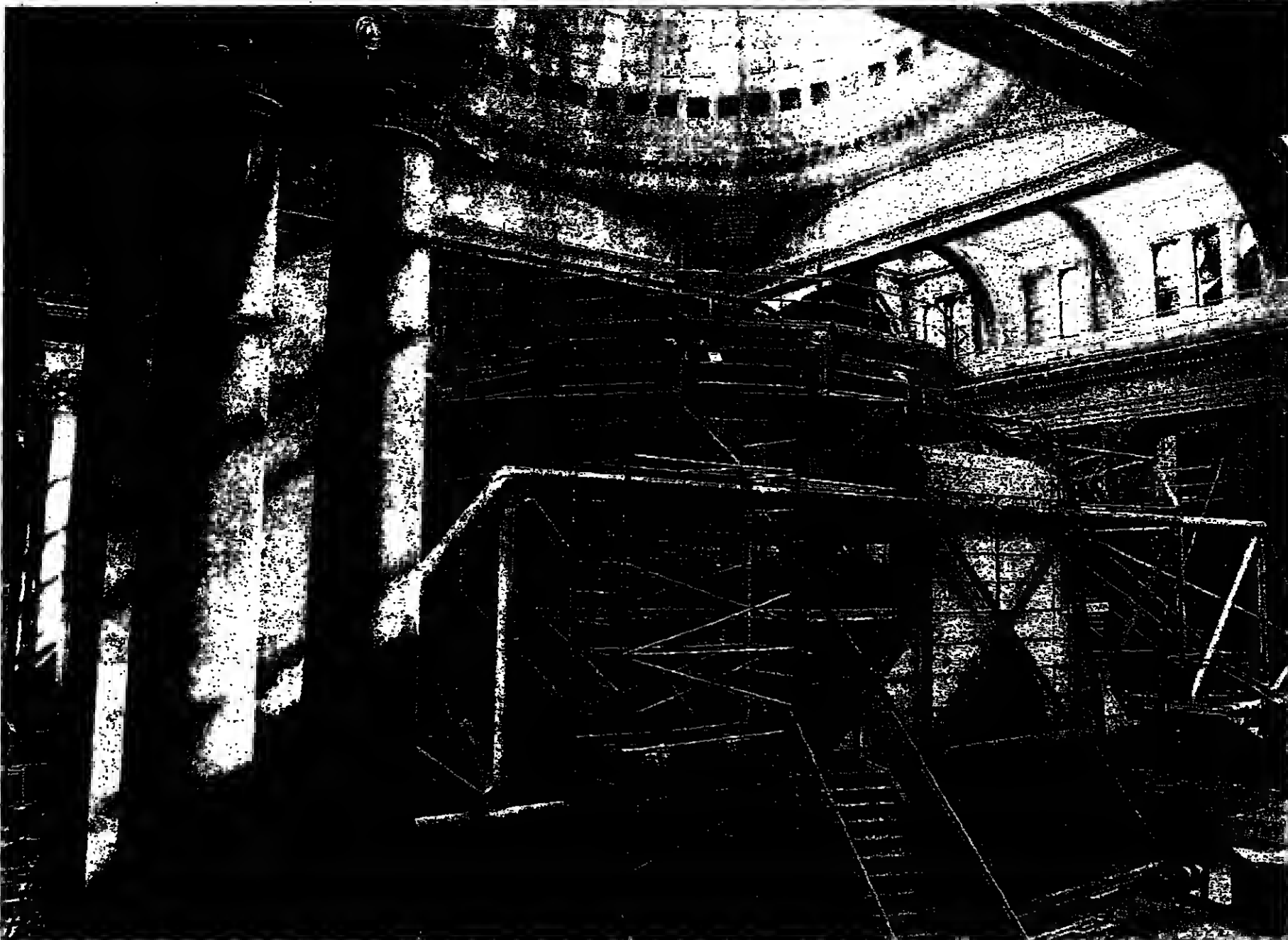
The module is a cradle of tubular steelwork, using technology borrowed from contemporary oil rigs. It looks symmetrical but in fact it is seven-sided within, creating fiendish geometric complexities which were out the two Sinclair calculators that Burrough used.

Why the steel and the complexity? The answer is that Negri and his colleagues had rejected the idea of an opaque black box standing in the Exchange. "They wanted the auditorium to feel part of the huge space around, with glass walls and a roof that opened to mix two different acoustics," says Malcolm Brown, another member of the architectural team.

Prompted by the lottery, plans had been drawn up to refit the theatre even before the bomb, and heroically the company reopened in Upper Canal Market within weeks of the explosion. "This gave us the clue," Murray says. "People started saying: 'We like this, do we need to go back to the Exchange?' Suddenly we realised it had not been welcoming enough. The restored theatre had to be a wow moment you saw it from the street."

Every time the architects came with plans the reaction was "yes we like it, but go further". The result is as inspiring a marriage of old and new as can be imagined. Bomb damage to the plaster ceilings has been meticulously repaired. Highly polished columns gleam as in a Baroque church. But beyond this

there has been no slavish attempt to recreate historic paint schemes. Rather, ravishing colour has been achieved by brilliant collaboration between the architects and the stained-glass artist Amber Hiscott, working in two different tonal ranges that sensationally complement each other. Negri's original concept was of a blue heaven over a warm earth below (parody to disguise the scruffy state of the great hall). But the coloured glass in the domes had quickly faded. Now it has been replaced in an intense



Brilliant stained-glass windows and state-of-the-art plasma lighting create the remarkable wash of colour inside the newly restored Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester

blue which at midday magically transforms colours below, turning saffron yellow to salmon pink.

The walls are picked out in a series of soft, almost sorbet colours. The stained glass, by contrast, is intensely fresh and bright. The 30 rooflights and 21 clerestory windows are backlit so they glow by night as well as day. "I wanted to create a celebratory atmosphere, with the feel of a theatre," Hiscott explains. "So I filled my studio with frosties as I did the watercolour designs." These provided the palette

of vivid yellows, pinks and reds. The result is crisper and brighter than the smartest modern scarf you could buy in Florence.

But the biggest sensation will be the plasma lights installed just before opening (each costing £1,500 and lasting 50,000 hours). Colin Hamilton, of the consultants Max Fordham, explains: "They consist of a one-inch sphere of glass with sulphur inside. You use a magnetron to bombard them like a microwave and they generate light as intense as the sun." It could blind

you, so reflectors are used, beaming each light down as a small pool of light — like a spotlight.

The scheme also involves clearing the hall floor of makeshift stalls. New accommodation has been created in box structures within colonnades. Thanks to soft lighting, these Portakabin lookalikes melt into the grand architecture.

The biggest practical change, however, will be the petals in the roof that open to allow scenery to be flown for the first time. With the aid of blackouts and sudden spots,

objects and even people can appear miraculously on stage, or make dramatic entrances from above. In next February's *Peer Gynt* the petals will open up to reveal a shooting star crossing the hall. So far, Negri's theatre in the round has not produced the progeny that might be expected. But now this Manchester marvel should draw visitors from the four corners of the globe.

● The Royal Exchange Theatre (0161-533 8833) reopens on Nov 30 with Stanley Houghton's celebration of Manchester life, *Puddle Wakes*

VISUAL ART: Bridget Riley has put her career on show, writes Isabel Carlisle

Four decades of a life lived in the abstract

The exhibition of Bridget Riley's work at the Abbot Hall Art Gallery in Kendal charts all four decades of the career of one of the most outstanding artists of postwar Britain. Selected by Riley herself, the works, more than 40 of them, are also largely drawn from her own collection. With a surprising symmetry, the exhibition takes us from the first black and white abstract works of the early 1960s, through a growing confidence and then virtuosity with colour, to working drawings and sketches for the latest work seen in a public gallery exhibition: the black and white *Composition with Circles* which took up a whole wall in the Berne Kunsthalle last spring.

A conversation with Riley is, like her art, exhilarating and precise. Her heroes of abstraction are Mondrian, Pollock and Klee, but a visit to her West London studio and home, where all the floors and walls are painted a thick, rich white, most closely evokes the almost monastic dedication of Mondrian to his art.

Each floor of the tall Notting Hill house has a working area, either for painting or writing. Space is necessary because Riley uses assistants to carry out her ideas and paint both the full-scale studies and the final canvases, first in acrylic and then, over the top, in oils. She has used assistants in her studio from the very beginning of her career, as Renaissance artists did.

ing the decisions — rejecting and accepting, altering and revising — that an artist's real personality comes through." Riley was in her late twenties when, in 1960, she produced the first black and white work in a style many people believe to be quintessential Riley. "Kiss was preceded by a completely black painting which had failed," she recalls. "I tried to find out why I was so dissatisfied with it, and thinking back to what I had discovered in copying Seurat I realised there was no opposition within this black painting."

"So in the next painting I added white and put a straight line against a curve. Where they almost touch there is a tiny visual flash which suggested the title. From that time on I pitched my work on contrast."

Critics dubbed the early work Op Art and Riley quickly became an unwilling star. In 1965 she had simultaneous shows in New York at the Museum of Modern Art and a commercial gallery (sold out before the opening night). What was it like to be a young artist in the 1960s? "We didn't realise what an exceptional period that was because it seemed quite rational, and even normal, for art in all its forms to be seen to be playing a central role in society. We thought the burst of creative energy was a beginning, but it turned out to be the end of a flowering of art which had begun in the late 1940s."

Are there any parallels between the ferment of creativity then and now? "A huge change has taken place. All the edges between the arts have become blurred and indistinct. In the short term this may seem advantageous, but I can't help feeling that in the long run it will present great



"Abstract art is at a very early stage," Bridget Riley says

difficulties. One of the most difficult things facing young artists today is the pressure of commercialism. It must be very hard to resist because commercial values now carry a sort of cultural sanction."

At a point in time where the art scene is so fragmented that there appears to be no clear through line, Riley can be seen as a champion of abstraction, that most emphatic expression of Modernism. "The emergence of abstract art has placed it in a unique position," she says. "It is clearly at a very early stage in its development, and as such it is very much to do with discovery, with discovering its parameters, its forms and its language."

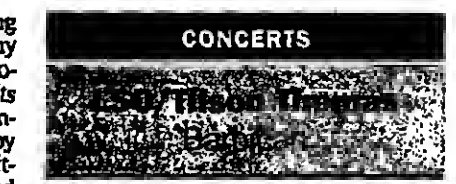
Riley's own abstraction builds on the sensations encountered in the natural world, which makes the Lake District an appropriate setting

Beautifully heard and not seen

There were doubtless compelling reasons for the London Symphony Orchestra to change the programme of the second concert in its Stravinsky Stage Music series — the announced *Oedipus Rex* was replaced by *Pulcinella* — but it might have been a little less secretive about it. Those who had already purchased tickets were told, but there was a certain amount of unrest among on-the-night punters, who had the news broken to them at the box office.

But I imagine there were few complaints afterwards. Maybe contrary to expectation, Michael Tilson Thomas underlined Stravinsky's affection for Pergolesi — or whoever's — original tunes rather than the wit and ebullience with which he adapted them. Not that we were short-changed on rumbustiousness — how could we be with the LSO's virtuosic brass soloists? — but this was a lyrical, warm-hearted, hugely affectionate reading.

And, given complete, it was a showcase for some beautiful singing, from the vel-



CONCERTS

very-toned Ruby Philogene, from a David Wilson-Johnson matching the brass in Russo-Italian pungency, and from the young US tenor Kenneth Tarver, an LSO discovery plainly set on an important career. His warm, gentle, easy sound and fine musicianship should be heard to great advantage when (if), as promised, he sings Mozart and Rossini at Covent Garden in 2001.

*Petrushka* was the main course. *Pulcinella* having been a not inapt *hors d'oeuvre*. Quite apart from the shared *commedia dell'arte* provenance, given Stravinsky's relationship with the past and with other people's music, precisely what is the balance between mockery and affection in

his use of Lanner's exquisite little *Ländler*? There is certainly no mockery in his handling of the tranche of Russian folk tunes woven into the score.

This is dance music that has long transcended its original setting. Fokine's choreography and even Nijinsky's performance — Tchaikovsky and Petipa remain much more evenly matched. There are countless advantages in hearing it better played — every department of the LSO on scintillating form — than you will in any opera house: when you see the players you listen in a different way, to the cellos in their first vertiginous entry, to the whole string section sawing away in perfect unison up on the bridge, or such effects as low harp in duet with pianissimo tambourine, the sort of detail you miss in a stage performance. The long, long silence at the end proved that this superb performance had a valid dramatic power all its own.

RODNEY MILNES

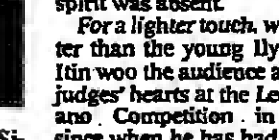
Solidly fuelled



For all its popularity, Sibelius's Second Symphony confounds at every turn. No sooner are we lulled by warm, caressing strings at the start than angular winds playing wide-spaced intervals jolt the listener. From then on each beginning proves fragmentary, each question answered by a contradiction. And yet the motifs are all part of the same story, but handed across such wide spaces that there is a danger the music will burn itself out in mid-air.

Such a mobilised work can be presented as an intimate kaleidoscope, or a surging torrent of music where wide arcs subsume detail. For this performance, Neeme Järvi did neither. The overwhelming sense was of warmth and solidity. He didn't lean on the cadences of the first movement, but ploughed a steady course. In the dark rhapsodies of the Andante, the Philhar-

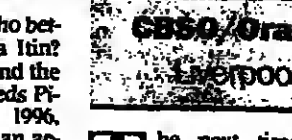
Vulgar pictures



The next time Sakari Oramo conducts Stokowski's version of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* he should do the unfortunate composer the favour of having the item attributed to "Leopold Stokowski after Mussorgsky".

Stokowski not only omits several movements from Mussorgsky's piano score but also makes cuts within the movements and, worse still, expands them. He betrays the quite specific pictorial intentions of the original by piling on sounds, colours and orchestral tricks that have relevance to nothing but his own vulgarity. One of his few good ideas, the tremolando strings applied to the main theme in an eerie passage associated with the Catcombs, is ruined by his failure to resist applying similar effects to the same material on two earlier occasions. The one useful purpose Stokowski served, as the final

Defendant to



item in the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's concerts in Birmingham and Liverpool last week, was as a witness for the defence of Oramo's compatriot and conductor-composer colleague Esa-Pekka Salonen. If anyone in Symphony Hall thought that Salonen's *LA Variations* at the beginning of the programme was an overindulgent Hollywood spectacle, they hadn't heard anything yet. At least it is true to itself, and as the CBSO so convincingly demonstrated, it is a brilliant exercise in orchestration.

Mixed feelings were left too by Richard Stoltzman's contribution to the concert as soloist in the interval. Listening to him in Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, in a performance that was effortlessly fluent but not always clearly articulated, they hadn't heard anything yet. At least it is true to itself, and as the CBSO so convincingly demonstrated, it is a brilliant exercise in orchestration. Mixed feelings were left too by Richard Stoltzman's contribution to the concert as soloist in the interval. Listening to him in Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, in a performance that was effortlessly fluent but not always clearly articulated, they hadn't heard anything yet. At least it is true to itself, and as the CBSO so convincingly demonstrated, it is a brilliant exercise in orchestration.

GERALD LARNER

مكتبة من الأصيل







# Landlord not liable in nuisance for tenant's noise

**Baxter v Camden London Borough Council (No 2)**  
Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Tuckey

[Judgment November 5]  
A landlord, who had let flats with poor sound insulation to tenants, was not liable in the tort of nuisance to a tenant whose reasonable use and enjoyment of her flat was interfered with by noise resulting from the ordinary use of an adjoining flat by another tenant.

Even if the ordinary use of residential premises was capable of constituting a nuisance, the principle that it was no defence that the plaintiff came to the nuisance had no application as between landlord and tenant. Such cases were decided on the principle "caveat lessee" and the fact, albeit a fiction, that the lessee was deemed to take the premises as he found them.

The Court of Appeal, in a reserved judgment, dismissed an appeal by the plaintiff, Yvonne Elizabeth Baxter, against the decision of Judge Green, QC, at Central London County Court on November 10, 1997, that her claim in nuisance against her landlord, Camden London Borough Council, should be dismissed.

In 1975 the council converted a Victorian end-of-terrace house in Camden into three one-bedroom flats, one on each floor. There was no statutory requirement in London at

that time, or until 1985, to provide sound insulation, although building regulations required it in other parts of the country.

The only noise barriers between the flats were plasterboard ceilings and wooden floors which were in poor condition.

In July 1992 the council let the first-floor flat to the plaintiff. Tenants already occupied the other two flats.

The plaintiff complained that she could hear the noise generated by the day-to-day living of her neighbours in the flat above. The cause of the noise was identified as poor sound-proofing between the flats but the council did nothing about it.

In 1995 the plaintiff brought proceedings against the council for breach of her covenant of quiet enjoyment and/or nuisance.

Following initial proceedings in the county court and Court of Appeal (*Baxter v Camden London Borough Council* (1998) 30 HLR 501), the plaintiff gave evidence before Judge Green, QC, that she could hear "normal conversation, singing, arguments, the television, snoring, coughing, bringing up of phlegm, sneezing, bed-springs, footfalls and creaking floorboards, the pull-cord light switch in the bathroom, taps running in the bathroom and kitchen, the toilet being used ...

the vacuum cleaner ... [and] music on the stereo."

The judge found that the noise emitted from the flats arose from the ordinary use of the flats and constituted an undue interference with the plaintiff's use and enjoyment of her flat.

But he held that the council were not liable in nuisance because a tenant who took premises in a defective state could not complain of their conditions unless the terms of his tenancy or statute enabled him to do so.

The plaintiff appealed and the council cross-appealed.

Mr James Goudie, QC and Mr Zia Nabi for the plaintiff; Mr Andrew Arden, QC and Mr Christopher Baker for the council.

**LORD JUSTICE TUCKEY** said that in *Southmark London Borough Council v Mills* (The Times August 20, 1998), the Court of Appeal decided by a majority that where tenants of the same landlord were adjoining occupiers of flats, and one tenant's reasonable use and enjoyment of his flat was interfered with by noise from the ordinary use of the adjoining flat, their landlord was liable for breach of his covenant of quiet enjoyment.

The present case raised the question whether the landlord could be liable in nuisance.

Mr Goudie submitted that the judge should have applied the principle that it was not a

defence that the plaintiff came to the nuisance. He also served the right to contend in the House of Lords that the *Southmark* case had been wrongly decided.

Mr Arden submitted that if the judge's finding stood and could therefore be distinguished from the present case on its facts.

The judge did not approach his findings of undue interference with those considerations in mind. What conclusion should be reached? The answer depended on how one should regard the conversion in 1975.

But for the conversion there would be no liability for noise created by the ordinary use of a house in multiple occupation. The conversion in 1975 reduced, by an unknown amount, the sound insulation between the floors.

But it did not change the purpose for which the house was used. There was nothing unusual or unreasonable about the conversion which was done in accordance with building standards of the time.

In those circumstances nothing was done at that time so as to make ordinary use of the converted house a nuisance: contrast the situation in *Sampson v Hodson-Pressinger* (1981) 3 All ER 710) was

consider whether the council would be liable if the noise was capable of amounting to a nuisance. There was something unusual about the way in which the premises were being used in *Sampson* and it could therefore be distinguished from the present case on its facts.

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A landlord would be liable if he caused, continued or authorised a nuisance and there was little doubt that the council would be liable on the basis that by 1992, when they let the flat to the plaintiff, they had let the other two flats and knew or ought to have known that due to poor sound insulation, ordinary use of the two flats would unduly interfere with the plaintiff's use and enjoyment of her flat.

Did the fact that the house had poor sound insulation and the other two flats were already let give the council a defence to the plaintiff's claim in nuisance?

There was no implied covenant by a landlord that an unfurnished house or flat which he let was fit for habitation. If it was let in a dangerous or dilapidated condition then the landlord was not liable for injury to the tenant, his family or guests: see *Robbins v Jones* (1853) 15 CB(NS) 221 applied in *Cavallier v Pope* (1906) AC 429.

The principle had since been applied to claims in negligence for personal injury. But in such cases a builder-landlord, as opposed to a bare landlord, could be liable if his negligent design or construction: see *Rimmer v Liverpool City Council* (1985) QB 1, applied

in *McNery v Lambeth London Borough Council* (1989) 21 HLR 188.

Did similar principles apply to a landlord's liability in nuisance?

In *Cheater v Cater* (1917) 2 KB 516 a tenant's horse died from eating vetch from the overhanging branches of trees growing on the landlord's adjoining land.

The tenant's claim against the landlord in negligence and nuisance failed. The court cited with approval dictum of Lord Justice Mellish in *Evans v Adams* (1873) LR 8 Ch 756, 761 where he said: "A tenant, when he takes a farm, must look and judge for himself what the state of the farm is. Just as in the case of a purchaser of a business, the rule is caveat emptor, so in the case of taking the lease of property the rule is caveat lessee: he must take the property as he finds it."

The court in *Cheater* made it clear that the principle only applied where the adjoining occupiers were landlord and tenant. Furthermore the court suggested, and subsequent cases have established, that if the landlord created the nuisance after the letting he would be liable.

Mr Goudie submitted that *Cheater* was an example of nuisance involving encroachment on to neighbouring land; that nuisance involving interference with enjoyment of land

was of a different kind: that the principle in *Cheater* ought not to apply to that kind of nuisance; and that the applicable principles were those stated in *Sampson* and *Baxter*.

There was no logical basis for such a distinction. While the nature of the interference might be different, each arose from the state of the adjoining premises.

Moreover, if there was no liability in cases where physical damage including personal injury was caused by defective premises, there could be no reason why the same rule should not apply to nuisance from noise.

Neither *Cavallier v Pope* or *Cheater v Cater* were cited to the Court of Appeal in *Sampson* or *Baxter*. If necessary, his Lordship would hold that those later cases had been decided per incuriam.

Finally, the principle in *Sturges v Bridgman* (1879) 11 Ch D 852, that it was not a defence that the plaintiff came to the nuisance, had no application from the time the parties were landlord and tenant.

Such cases were decided on the caveat lessee principle and the fact, albeit a fiction, that the lessee was deemed to take the premises as they were.

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Otton delivered concurring judgments. Solicitors: Goldberg's; Ms Amanda Kelly, Camden.

## Application is not a trial

**Salvage and Another v Hussein**  
Before Mr Nicholas Stewart, QC

[Judgment October 30]  
An application to set aside a statutory demand was not a trial or hearing on the merits under Order 59, rule 10(2) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Accordingly, while a number of similar considerations applied, the exercise of the court's discretion to admit fresh evidence into an appeal from the dismissal of such an application was not restricted to the special grounds identified in *Ladd v Marshall* (1954) 1 WLR 1489.

Mr Nicholas Stewart, QC, sitting as a deputy Chancery Division judge, so held allowing the application by the appellants, Mrs Judy Salvage and Mr Leslie Salvage, for leave to adduce fresh evidence, in the form of affidavits sworn by each of them on September 11, 1998, on appeal from the refusal by District Judge Hollis at Eastbourne County Court on August 14, 1998 to set aside

statutory demands served on the applicants by the respondent, Talib Hussein.

Mr Gabriel Buttmore for Mr and Mrs Salvage; Mr Jonathan Miller for Mr Hussein.

HIS LORDSHIP said that there was conflicting authority on whether an application to set aside a statutory demand constituted a trial or hearing of the merits.

Mr Buttmore relied upon the unreported case of *Weller v Dunbar* (CA, January 27, 1994), referred to in paragraph 59(10)(8) of *The Supreme Court Practice 1997* as authority for the proposition that an order setting aside a default judgment was not a hearing on the merits because the true hearing on the merits was in the trial of the action yet to come, on the basis that in bankruptcy proceedings the trial yet to come was at the hearing of the petition itself rather than on the application to set aside the statutory demand.

He further cited obiter dicta of Mr Justice Morritt in *Royal Bank of Scotland v Binnell* (1996) BPIR 635 and the decision of Judge Weeks, QC, in *Norman Laurier v United Overseas Bank Ltd* (1996) BPIR 635 which considered that such an application was not a trial or hearing on the merits and therefore not governed by *Ladd v Marshall*.

Mr Miller sought to rely on the decision of Mr Justice Knox in *In re a Debtor* (No 59 of 1987) (*The Independent* February 1, 1988) and on Mr Justice Carnwath, obiter, in *AIB Finance Ltd v Debtors* (1997) 4 All ER 677.

Where there were two conflicting decisions of the High Court, the latter decision was to be preferred, provided it was reached after full consideration of the earlier decision, unless the third judge was convinced that the second was wrong in not following the first: see *Colchester Estates (Curatiff) Ltd v Curatiff Industries plc* (1980) Ch 80.

In *Norman Laurier*, the court gave full consideration to the contrary authorities before adopting the approach

proposed by Mr Justice Morritt in *Royal Bank of Scotland v Binnell*.

Accordingly his Lordship was of the opinion that *Norman Laurier* was binding upon him and that the court's discretion was not fettered by *Ladd v Marshall*.

While a less restrictive approach than that in *Ladd v Marshall* was required, many similar considerations still applied. His Lordship was satisfied that adding the new evidence would not be unfairly prejudicial to the respondent.

It was clear that the new evidence, which supported an allegation of misrepresentation against Mr Hussein, would, if accepted, affect the outcome of the case.

The adequacy of the explanation of why it was not adduced earlier, that the appellants had not realised its legal significance, was an issue as to the credibility of the appellants which might need to be addressed at the substantive hearing of the appeal.

Solicitors: Fenwick & Co David Tang & Co.

**Goodwin v Patent Office**  
Before Mr Justice Morison, Mr J. C. Blythton and Mrs R. Vickers

[Judgment October 21]  
Merely because a person was able to cope at home did not mean that he was outwith the definition of a disabled person for the purposes of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held in allowing an appeal by Mr Matthew Goodwin from the decision of an employment tribunal sitting at Cardiff that the tribunal had no jurisdiction to hear his complaint that his employer, the Patent Office, had discriminated against him by reason of his disability, on the ground that he did not have a disability within the meaning of the 1995 Act.

Section 1 of the 1995 Act provides: "(1) Subject to the provisions of Schedule 1, a person has a disability for the purpose of this Act if he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his ability to carry out normal day to day activities."

Mr Robin Allen, QC and Mr Declan O'Dempsey for the applicant; Ms Ruth Downing for the employer.

MR JUSTICE MORISON said that the applicant had been employed as a patent examiner when he was dismissed following complaints by fellow employees about his behaviour.

The employment tribunal found that he had not been on proper medication at the time and consequently suffered from "thought broadcasting" where he imagined that other people could access his thoughts.

The applicant's concentration was adversely affected by his illness, but that, although his impairment did affect to some extent his ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities, in view of his ability to perform domestic tasks without assist-

ance, to get to work efficiently and to carry out his work satisfactorily, the effect was not substantial.

The issue on the appeal concerned the proper approach to the question whether a person had a disability within the meaning of the 1995 Act. It was clear that the employment tribunal had misdirected itself in a number of respects and its decision could not stand.

It seemed most surprising that any tribunal should conclude that a person admittedly diagnosed as suffering from paranoid schizophrenia and who had been dismissed partly because of what one might call bizarre behaviour, consistent with that diagnosis, fell outside the definition in section 1 of the Act.

It was plain that employment tribunals would welcome some guidance on the proper approach to issues arising under section 1.

The first, and most obvious, point was that the employment tribunal should have paid careful attention to what the parties had said in the originating application and the notice of appearance. In many cases it would be good practice either to make standard directions designed to clarify issues or to arrange a directions hearing.

Parties might wish to present expert evidence, and it would be undesirable for such evidence to be given without proper advance notice to the other party and the early provision of a copy of any expert report to be referred to.

The role of the employment tribunal contained an inquisitorial element, and the interventionist role which it had in relation to equal value claims might be thought a good model for disability cases.

Some persons might be unable or unwilling to accept that they suffered from any disability. Without the direct help of the tribunal, there might be cases, where the claim had been drafted with outside help but which the applicant was unwilling to support.

Second, a purposive approach to construction should be adopted. Tribunals were

given two forms of explicit assistance, which should detract from the need to adopt a loose construction of the language: the guidance on the matters to be taken into account in determining questions relating to the definition of disability issued by the secretary of state on July 25, 1996 and the Code of Practice: *Disability Discrimination* (1996).

Reference should always be made, explicitly, to any relevant provision of the guidance or code taken into account in arriving at a decision.

Third, the words of section 1 required a tribunal to look at the evidence by reference to four different conditions: (i) impairment, (ii) adverse effect, (iii) substantiality and (iv) long term effect.

Tribunals might find it helpful to address each, while being aware of the risk of taking their eye off the whole picture. Mental impairment included an impairment resulting from or consisting of a mental illness provided that it was a clinically well recognised illness, but mental illness did not have the special meaning attributed to it in other legislation.

If there was doubt as to whether the impairment condition was fulfilled in an alleged mental illness case, it would be advisable to see whether the illness was mentioned in the World Health Organisation's International Classification of Diseases. Adverse effect might be the most difficult condition to judge. The Act was concerned with an impairment on the person's ability to carry out activities. The fact that a person could carry out such activities did not mean that his ability to carry them out had not been impaired.

Disabled persons often adjusted their lives and circumstances to enable them to cope for themselves. Furthermore, they were likely to play down the effect of their disability on their daily life. The focus of attention was on things that a person either could not do or could do only with difficulty. The Act was looking to see whether the capacities in paragraph 4(i) of Schedule 1 had been affected.

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**ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC**

Prince Consort Road  
London SW7 2BS

NOTICE is hereby given that the ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the College will be held at the College on Wednesday 2 December 1998 at 3.45pm to receive a Report and Statement of Accounts from the Council.

Any member wishing to attend as a Graduate should apply by 22 November 1998 to the Clerk of the Council at the above address, furnishing details of his/her claim to membership, so that the necessary papers, security and voting authorities may be made available at the meeting.

DATED 5 November 1998  
W M Morgan  
Clerk to the Council

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11 1998

RACING: Zafaraba

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY

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RUGBY UNION

Woodward puts his faith in Luger and Corry

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

ENGLAND, veering from doubt to certainty within 24 hours, sprang two surprises in the XV that will start against The Netherlands in the first of their two World Cup qualifying games, at Huddersfield on Saturday. Dan Luger will win his first cap on the left wing and Martin Corry leapfrogs some distinguished rivals to come in at No 8.

Injuries that removed Lawrence Dallaglio, David Rees, Tony Underwood and Kyran Bracken from contention left Clive Woodward, the England coach, debating the merits of Luger against Spencer Brown and Tom Beim — both of them members of the tour party to the southern hemisphere — and the Harlequin won through.

Woodward, though, had little doubt about his antecedents: "When I coached the England Under-21 side, Matt Perry, David Rees and Dan were the stand-out players," he said.

Perry and Rees have already leapt into the senior squad, but Luger, 23, whose father, Darko, is from Croatia, has been held back by injury. He broke his arm after moving from Orrell to Harlequins, then severely damaged knee ligaments playing against Auckland Blues early last year; he did not return until December, but the knee troubled him for the rest of the season. However, he is now fully fit and benefiting from Harlequins' upsurge in form: seven tries from nine Allied Dunbar Premiership games are testament to the quality of the fastest player in the England squad.

"I thought there were too many guys ahead of me to get a cap and when I heard I was speechless," Luger, 6ft 1in and 1st 7lb, said. He will be the twelfth player to appear as a wing since Woodward became coach.

Corry, who was capped twice against Argentina last year, will start his first international at home as the form player of the domestic season and ahead of Tony Diprose, who was probably the unluckiest man to miss selection. Corry will have four Leicester colleagues alongside him in the pack, Woodward being per-

TEAMS

ENGLAND: M Perry (Bath); A Healy (Leicester); W Cochrane (Leicester); P Grayson (Northampton); M Dawson (Northampton); J Leach (Northampton); R Coates (Leicester); O Garforth (Leicester); M Johnson (Leicester, captain); G Archer (Northampton); S Clark (Richmond); M Back (Leicester); M Corry (Leicester); replacements: B Barber (Northampton); P de Gierville (Bath); M Cati (Bath); R Vail (Saracens); T Hodder (Northampton); O Rossouw (Leicester); P Grewing (Sale). Other World Cup squad members: T Barm (Sale); W Green (Wasps); A Diggins (Saracens); O Greenwood (Saracens).

IRELAND: C O'Shea (London Irish); J Bishop (London Irish); P Duggan (Galwegians); J Bell (Dunfermline); R Meehan (Bath); E Elwood (Galwegians); C McGuinness (St Mary's College); P Clohesy (Trinity Motors); R Heaslip (Newcastle); P Wallace (Saracens); P Jones (Saracens, captain); M O'Keefe (London Irish); M Miller (Trenton College); A Ward (Bathurst); V Costello (St Mary's College); replacements: C Scahill (LTD); B Humphreys (Dunfermline); G Dempsey (Trenton College); O O'Connell (Sale); J Devlin (Coventry); J Fitzmaurice (Dunfermline); A Clarke (Dunfermline).

sued that the combination of Neil Back and Corry in the back row would work well, with Ben Clarke taking over from Dallaglio.

Dallaglio sprained a medial ligament against Northampton at the weekend but will hope to have achieved full fitness in time to lead the side against Australia on November 28. "It was an obvious deci-



Corry in great form

sion to withdraw this week and we will have to see if things improve," he said. "I'm a quick healer."

Pai Duignan, who was born in Canada and raised in Australia, will make his debut for Ireland in the World Cup qualifying match against Georgia in Dublin on Saturday. Duignan, 26, will partner Jonathan Bell in the centre, with Kevin Maggs, of Bath, reverting to the left wing after appearing in his club position of centre against South Africa during the summer tour.

There are ten survivors from the side beaten 33-0 in Pretoria, including Keith Wood, who is in contractual dispute with the Irish Rugby Football Union. Paddy Johns retains the captaincy and will be joined in the second row by Malcolm O'Kelly, with Jeremy Davidson, the British Isles lock, who joined Castres during the summer, having to be content with a seat among the replacements.

Eric Miller, who has played only four games this season for Ulster and his new club, Terenure College, returns to international rugby after an unhappy 1997-98 season at blind-side flanker. Neither Trevor Brennan, capped in the summer in the back row, nor Alan Quinlan, the Munster flanker, could be considered because of injuries. Peter Clohesy switches to loose-head prop in what could be a permanent move this season.

The replacements include Claran Scally, who shared in the Irish Schools' unbeaten tour to Australia in 1996. The promotion to the senior squad of the young scrum half is encouragement to the younger generation to stay at home rather than seek employment in England.

The Rugby Football Union has postponed the appeal against suspension lodged by Richmond on behalf of Scott Quinnell until next week. Quinnell, who will be shown off today by Llanelli as part of a three-man package (alongside Jason Barrell, a prop from New Zealand, and Sale's Finau, the Tonga centre) recruited to the club, is therefore required to play for Wales against South Africa on Saturday. The disciplinary hearing will be held on Tuesday.



Luger was pleasantly surprised to be selected. "I thought there were too many guys ahead of me to get a cap," he said

Expedience is name of the game

By Alasdair Reid

BOASTING a number of players whose facial features suggest closer links with Scandinavia than Polynesia, the New Zealand Maoris squad that arrived in Scotland last week was clearly not picked on the basis of racial parity.

Selection for the Maoris, effectively an All Blacks development XV nowadays, has become a matter of expedience rather than ancestry, but the same could be said of the Edinburgh Reivers, their opponents at Mansfield Park, Hawick, tonight.

Conceived as a full-time professional side that would represent players from the lowly standards of club rugby in order to compete in the European Cup, the Reivers' raison d'être suffered a blow on Sunday when they were knocked out of that tournament by Ulster. Yesterday, having lost a best of players to injury and international squad selection, they brought in a number of replacements from the clubs from which they were previously so anxious to distance themselves.

Stephen Scott, the Gala booker, is the only one in the starting line-up, but Gordon Ross, of Heriot's, Gregor Hayter, of Watsonians, Alan Watt, of Currie, and Jim Hay, of Preston Lodge, have been given seats on the bench. That the latter two are full internationals says much about the bizarre nature of Scottish rugby these days.

So, too, does the fact that Aaron Collins has been named at inside centre by the Reivers. Collins, himself a New Zealander, has been drafted in from Glasgow Caltonians, Scotland's other super-district side, the outfit that gave him a contract this season, but has not yet felt the need to call on his services as a player.

By contrast, the Maoris side looks almost conventional, mixing youth and experience for the first game of their three-match Scottish tour. Their backs contain three All Blacks in Adrian Cashmore, Norm Bryman and Glen Osborne, with Kees Meeuws, the tight-head prop, the only forward to have been capped. Of the others, Norm Maxwell, the lock, is expected to graduate to full international rugby in the near future, while Greg Feele, the loose-head prop, and Bruce Reihana, the wing, are also considered to be potential future All Blacks.

The Reivers were forced into a late change when Hugh Gilmour — named on the right wing — withdrew with a neck injury. Ally Common is promoted from the replacements with Scott Nichol, of Melrose, coming on to the bench.

EDINBURGH REIVERS: S Long, A Common, S Hastings, A Collins, J Kerr, C Chapman, F Harty, R Mackay, S Scott, P Wright, D Banks, T Johnston, A Robertson, I Searles, B Remick. NEW ZEALAND MAORIS: A Cashmore, G Bryman, N Bryman, D Gibson, G Osborne, T Brown, A Flynn, G Fowl, S McFarlane, K Meeuws, N Maxwell, O Water, T Flett, O March, D Muir.

Wyatt sets Barbarians on way to stylish victory

Combined Services.....20 Barbarians.....51

By David Hands

GARETH WYATT, the Pontypridd wing, lifted Welsh hearts in an important week for Wales when he ran in four tries for the Barbarians at Portsmouth last night. Playing in the annual Remembrance Day match with the Combined Services, Wyatt both opened and closed the scoring for the invitation team with some delightful footwork.

Wales meet South Africa on Saturday, hoping that they can produce similar free running, if not the military exotica to which the Barbarians were treated by the Services: during their brief time together, they were taken to sea by submarine, to the air by Chinook helicopter and across Salisbury Plain in a tank.

In return, they scored nine tries against their hosts; led with considerable skill by Richard Pook-Jones, the Barbarians established a comfortable first-half lead, showing their traditional colours by running the ball from the first moment. The mixture of Taumalo, the Tonga fly half, and the burly Trevor Walsh, of Henley, in the centre proved a handful for the Services as they tried to establish some cohesion in front of an enthusiastic crowd.

The Barbarians flagged only in the second half, when the Services, victors over The Netherlands a week earlier and lifted by the presence of Rory Underwood, the former England wing, scored 17 points in a 14-minute flurry.

SCORERS: Combined Services: Tries: R Underwood (57m), Graham (59), Graeme-Jones (69), Conversions: Graham, Penalty goal: Graham (16). Barbarians: Tries: Wyatt (14, 20, 45, 60), Walsh (23), Thomas (20), Baker (40), Taumalo (54), Pook-Jones (59). Conversions: Taumalo 3.

SCORING SEQUENCE (Combined Services first): 0-7, 3-7, 3-12, 3-19, 3-24 (Penalty), 3-25, 3-34, 3-41, 10-41, 15-41, 15-46, 20-46, 20-51.

COMBINED SERVICES: For: R Greenoak-Jones (Army), FH LR Underwood (RAF), LS (R) G Sibson (Navy), O Cati (Dartmouth Army), Capt B Johnson (Army), Capt D Underwood, Army, 50, Capt H Jones (Army), Maj S Pender (Army), AEM O Pask (Navy), Maj J Brammer (Army), LS (R) N Barrett (Navy), Maj O Cross (Navy), Sgt P Taylor (RAF), Sgt R Armstrong (Navy), Capt A Dawling (Army), FH LR C Moore (RAF), rep. Sgt P Curtis, Army.

BARBARIANS: J Thomas (Gifford and West), G Wyatt (Pontypridd), T Walsh (Henley), W Rees (Galwegians), H Thompson (Northampton), S Taumalo (Eton Vale and Tongatapu), T Jamson, Rook Park, 77, O Sully (Worcester), I Sanderson, Gloucester, 77, E Byrne (St Mary's College), S Byrne (Blackrock College and Henley), W Bullock (Coventry), rep. J Duffly, Galwegians, 70, J Phillips (Northampton), K Walsh (Coventry), rep. R Beahm, Esher, 77, R Pook-Jones (Glasgow, France) and England, P Williams (Coventry), M Vanner (Henley). Referee: S Morrison (Stratford).

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT The Yugoslavs were not a major force in the 1998 Junior European Championships, but here one of their players made two thoughtful defensive plays and was rewarded with a game swing.

Bridge hand diagram showing Dealer East IMPs and Love all. Cards: ♠ Q84, ♥ J84, ♦ K63, ♣ A1098. ♠ N, ♥ W, ♦ E, ♣ S. ♠ J105, ♥ 10764, ♦ Q2, ♣ Q754. ♠ A87, ♥ AK9, ♦ A1086, ♣ KJ2.

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: ten of clubs.

Poljacki as West started off well for the defence by leading the ten of clubs to the queen and king. Declarer crossed to dummy via the queen of hearts and played the four of diamonds to the ten. Poljacki imperturbably played small, and after considerable thought declarer played the ace of diamonds, then abandoned the suit. He placed the king of diamonds with East, and did not want to run the risk of giving East the lead, and losing four club tricks. Declarer's next move was to cash the top spades and play a third spade. His plan was to throw West in with the queen of spades to collect his ninth trick in either clubs or spades. However, West worked out the plan and unblocked his queen of spades under the ace. When East came in with the jack of spades at the next trick he could return a small club, and Poljacki claimed three club winners and the king of diamonds, for one down.

WORD-WATCHING

- ALPARGATA a. A with feeling b. A pasta sauce c. A sandal
- FOSSOR a. A wasp b. A legionary officer c. A lumberjack
- BAHADUR a. An elephant keeper b. A great man c. A desert storm
- FLOBERT a. A ludicrous mistake b. A pocket book c. A cartridge

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Polgar wins After a relatively quiet year, the world's strongest female player, grandmaster Judit Polgar has burst onto the scene with a splendid victory at the VAM tournament in Holland.

White: Jan Timman Black: Judit Polgar

VAM tournament Holland 1998 Nimzo-Indian Defence. Chess board diagram showing moves: 1. d4 Nf6, 2. e4 e6, 3. Nc3 Bb4, 4. Nf3 O-O, 5. Bg5 c5, 6. e5 d6, 7. Rc1 exd5, 8. cxd5 Nc7, 9. e3 Nf5, 10. Bb4 Qe5, 11. Nd2 b5, 12. Be2 Bc7, 13. e4 Re8, 14. f3 Nf5, 15. O-O Nf4, 16. Nc3 Nc2+, 17. Qe2 Qe6, 18. Rf1 Bc3, 19. h2 e5, 20. Nc2 Qe4, 21. e4 Bc6, 22. Bg3 N4, 23. Be1 Nc5, 24. Re3 Re8, 25. Rf1 Be4, 26. Nc1 Nc3, 27. Nc3 Rb2, 28. Qd1 Qd1, 29. Re1 Rb8.

WINNING MOVE

Black to play. This position is from the game Bazarov - Reefat, Elista Olympiad, 1998. White is very vulnerable to an invasion by a major piece, as his king is pinned to the back rank. How did Black exploit this? Solution on page 46

Four points for a try to find league's new game-plan

Battle lines are being drawn up between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the leading clubs over the latter's plans for the future of the domestic game. Later this month, Francis Baron and Brian Balster, respectively chief executive and chairman of the RFU, will hear four different proposals, the most contentious of which is the franchise option. In order to secure the necessary investment from banks who would underwrite the franchises, the clubs want a five-year moratorium on promotion and relegation to ensure financial stability.

Option two is a Francois Pienaar plan to switch the English season to the summer and incorporate South African teams in a competition backed by television. More realistic is an expanded Allied Dunbar Premiership into which two Welsh and two Scottish teams could be invited. Option four is a strong English league running in tandem with a Celtic league with the top clubs from each going forward into a European competition with France.

Just who authorised Tony Hallett's pay-off after he resigned as the RFU secretary last year? That is the question many clubs want answered. The issue was raised again by Mike Wilson, the chairman of Leicestershire, at the RFU annual finance meeting in London last Friday. While there is no suggestion of impropriety on Hallett's part, there is concern that payments might not have been properly authorised.

With clubs and constituent bodies in England facing a 30 per cent reduction in grants and with six-figure

sums possibly involved in the Hallett case, the clubs think that they have the right to know more than they do. Graeme Cattermole, the chairman of the RFU finance committee, said it was a management board decision and that there is no question of the RFU accounts hiding anything.

Field sports Richard Field, who is not averse to enjoying the good life, has been in strict training since August for an assault on the round Twickenham record. Field, the RFU marketing manager, whose shape could be described as unimpeachable, intends to shed and raise a few pounds by cycling 197½ times around the stadium on November 20.

That half lap is important because it will mean that he has cycled 100 miles to raise money for Children in Need. "The bike's got 27 gears," he said, "but I don't think I'll be using more than two!"

Plans for Nigel He may be a multimillionaire and leading shareholder in Saracens, but Nigel Wray is adamant that he pays his own way by hiring a hospitality box at every home game. He is doing so again

black days The indefatigable Alan Black, the RFU national promotions officer, is hitting the road again. Black is organising a series of seminars in Huddersfield every day next week in coincidence with England's World Cup qualifying games. There will be a different topic each day at the McAlpine Stadium, including advice on the lottery, sponsorship, ground maintenance and medical issues.

Irish logic Quote from John Mitchell, Sale's New Zealand-born coach and Clive Woodward's assistant, after his club had beaten the increasingly cosmopolitan London Irish: "It was nice to see the British beating the southern hemisphere," he said.

Beyond Ken Ken O'Connell, the Ireland flanker, who joined Castres in the summer, is taking time to get used to the customs that preclude drinking after a game in France. "Apparently, it is perfectly all right to smoke about 40 cigarettes the day before a match, but drinking is totally taboo. I think I'll have to take up the fags."

Wing wizard Iolo Williams, the former Newtown wing, who sacrificed his rugby career for bird watching, is tipped to become the new David



Wray: box seat

though they first to Lincoln in the first round and could only draw in the second. Lincoln were kicked out after fielding unregistered players in their 13-11 defeat of West Bridgford, who progressed to the third round as the away side after a 9-9 draw against Newark. Percy Park and Park House were also caught out by vigilant Twickenham officials, while, in the Tetley's Bitter Vase, seven clubs have fallen foul of the authorities after the first round. Beware... big brother is watching!

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "Rising f...", "The danger of battling the sick...", "CRICKET", "Impressi...", "Englan...", "batter wa...", "to recor...", "MARK SOUSTER", "Ponting point..."





Rising from sickbed to give bowlers the treatment

England cricket in good news shock. Cricket match not lost. The news of Graham Thorpe's heroics has cheered us all up...

that actual illness can be a real and quite specific advantage.

There are many batting stories of illness and miraculous scores. There may be two reasons for this. First, batting does not have the same physical demands as tennis or football...

The demands of batting seem to suit the sick man

Thorpe got up from his sickbed to play an innings that might just have turned the tour around. Certainly, the team will have a spring in its step and maybe the Australians have stopped laughing for a bit.

Thorpe said that he played "on autopilot" during the crucial middle session of the day, in which he belted 125 runs in an extraordinary counter-attack.

sickness, it was made precisely because of it.

History's most famous sick batsman was Eddie Paynter, who played the crucial innings in the most famous Test match ever played, the pivotal Third Test in the Bodyline series of 1932-33.

He was ill before the match, but, fearing for his place, didn't tell his captain, Douglas Jardine.

He came out to bat from his hospital bed, batted out the last 90 minutes of the day and then returned to hospital, where he was served cold chicken and iced champagne.

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

victory. In the second innings, he made the winning hit. A six.

Perhaps a still more remarkable sickbed effort came from Dean Jones, of Australia, in Madras in

1966-67. In extraordinary, more or less unplayable heat, Jones made 210. At first, he lost so much liquid that it bubbled out through the laceholes in his boots.

The second day was serious. Jones could not drink, because he could not keep anything down. He kept vomiting out in the middle.

At 160, he wanted to retire. Allan Border, his captain, told him "All right, if that's the way you feel, let's get a real Australian out here — a Queenslander." Jones stayed. At tea, his team-mates stripped him, cooled him down, redressed him, sent him out, having "forgotten" his box and thigh-pad.

to be with the boys. He wanted to know if he had reached his hundred.

Great tales. There are plenty of stories about athletes overcoming injury. Al Oerter, the American discus thrower, removed his surgical collar to make the throw that won him the third of his four Olympic gold medals.

"These are the Olympics, you'd die for them," he said. Bjorn Borg won Wimbledon one year while giving himself injections in the stomach at the change of ends.

Yet illness is different from injury. Illness is something that affects not an exterior bit of yourself, but the core. You cannot blame "this rotten leg of mine", you can only blame your rotten self.

alienated from a flu bug. In illness, you are truly less than yourself. Odd, then, that some people become more than themselves within its grasp.

It is the nature of batting that you seem to stand there to receive the buffets of fortune. Every batsman has moments of feeling like St Sebastian. David Gower said that he sometimes felt like the Spike Milligan poem on the burning deck. "Twit".

Illness adds one more layer of suffering to the sense of personal martyrdom, perhaps a mind-clearing one. Illness rides your brain of incessant little your place and your batting average. Illness takes you right to the end of your tether. Which is where some people find themselves.

CRICKET

Impressive England batter way to record

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN ADELAIDE

ADELAIDE (final day of four): England XI drew with South Australia

THERE are many ways of saving a game of cricket, but few can have been as impressive as this. After an undignified three-day tutorial from the state players of South Australia, England contrived a monopoly of the closing sessions as an unbroken partnership of 377 between Graham Thorpe and Mark Ramprakash broke a 78-year-old record for overseas sides in Australia.

Thorpe's unbeaten 223 was the best score of his career and

day of each game, not merely avoiding defeat but dismissing the possibility, reconfirms the impression that, for all their infuriating lapses, they have become more difficult to beat.

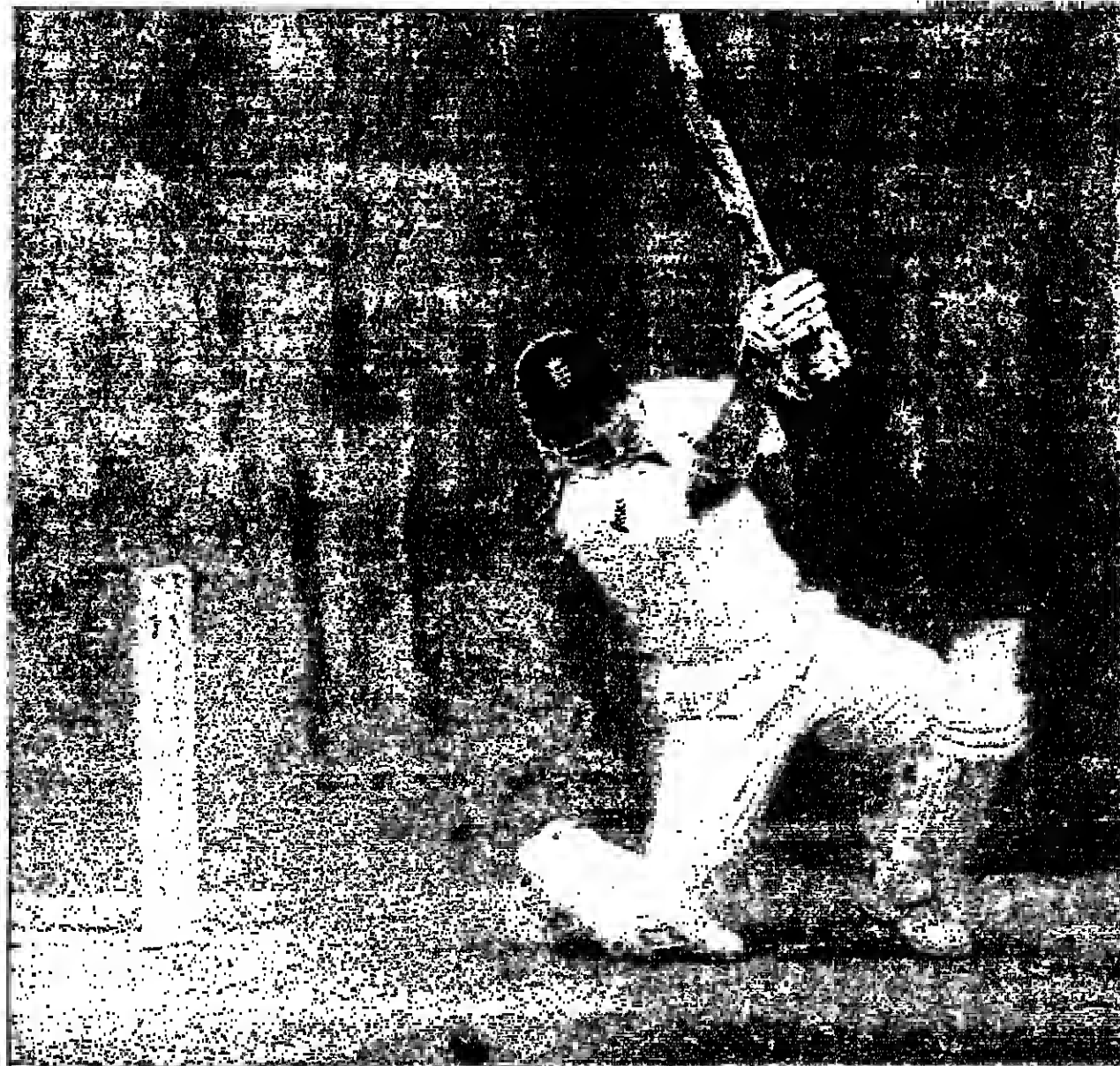
To put events yesterday in context, Thorpe and Ramprakash came together on Monday evening with England four wickets down and still 58 short of making South Australia bat again. The most embarrassing of mishaps — a three-day loss by an innings — confronted them.

By start of play yesterday, they were marginally in profit, but, during a testing morning, they needed to see off the second new ball, propelled by two of Australia's spiciest fast bowlers. Only when this was achieved could they begin to indulge themselves against support bowling of no great quality.

Though the circumstances should in no sense be compared with those in a Test match, this was a monumental stand. It spanned more than six hours and overhauled by nine runs the 368 shared for the second wicket by Wilfred Rhodes, then a sprightly 43, and L. C. A. G. (Jack) Russell, coincidentally for the MCC touring team in the corresponding game on this ground in 1920-21.

The England management, aware of the record, sent out Ben Hollis to inform the pair when they were ten runs short. A token declaration was delayed in order that they should pass the mark and the rain that had threatened all day then drew a veil over what would have been 85 minutes of irrelevance.

After that, there were commemorative pictures to be taken in front of the scoreboard, interviews to be staged and much communal backslapping. The batsmen concerned seemed creditably realistic, however, knowing that far tougher assignments lie in



Ramprakash, the junior partner in the stand with Thorpe, drives through the covers during his unbeaten 140

wait, grateful only that they can now plan to be involved in them, something neither had been taking for granted.

Thorpe admits he has consciously avoided planning ahead since undergoing back surgery in July. "Instead of thinking two or three years on, I'm going from game to game, trying to make the most of what I've got," he said. "It was in my mind that I might not make this tour and the fact that my back is fine so far is the most pleasing side of it."

He almost did not make it to the middle yesterday, after a night of sickness. "It was a flu-type bug and I still wasn't feeling great when I woke up. I did consider phoning to say I should give it a miss," Thorpe said. Despite looking wan and promising himself an early night, he was relieved to have changed his mind. "Runs come before confidence and on this tour, in particular, it was important for me to get off on the right foot."

For Ramprakash, a complex character, one sometimes feels that competition is a burdensome handicap and that the

looming shadow cast by John Crawley, since his 153 in the final Test of summer, is actually preventing him being the player he should be.

"I've played nine Tests in a row and I want that to continue, but I have felt the pressure on this tour," he said. "It's difficult to go out and play attacking shots in my position, because I feel that, in every innings I play for England, I have to try and make an impact." He did so here through

rigid application and technical merit more than the fluency of his strokeplay. He scored only 28 before lunch and, in a remarkable afternoon session that produced 194 runs from 33 overs, Ramprakash contributed just 67. He acknowledges his inhibitions, even explains them lucidly, but there will be so much better to come from him when finally he is persuaded to feel secure.

An hour into the day, Ramprakash gave a half-chance to

slip off Greg Blewett during the final over with the old ball. His innings was chanceless thereafter and although Thorpe might have been caught three times, the first occasion was not until he had made 150 and the game was safe.

On a stuffily slow pitch, the ultimate contrast with the surface in Perth last week, the bowlers had a thankless task and the two debut-making spinners eventually had their inexperience exposed. Evan Arnold's leg-breaks conceded 81 in eight overs after lunch, including a burst of 6-4-6-4 from Thorpe, who had taken an understandable liking to the short on-side boundary.

Thorpe's second hundred came in 89 minutes from only 70 balls and, by the close, he had beaten by one his previous highest score, for Surrey against Glamorgan. He does not overdo the smiles, nor easily betray his inner thoughts, but Thorpe will have slept last night with a weight lifted from his mind and England will be the beneficiaries.

South Africa hails the arrival of Lara

Inigo Gilmore sees West Indies make a belated start to their tour

WEST INDIES finally arrived in South Africa yesterday, six days behind schedule, for the start of their first tour of the country. The warmth of their initial welcome may be an indication that local cricket fans are prepared to forget the events of the past week.

A group of white supporters waved banners at Johannesburg airport welcoming the team and two youngsters raced forward to greet Brian Lara. The West Indies captain, who has been the central figure in the crisis, shook their hands and signed autographs before the team was whisked off to their hotel.

Dr Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), has been widely credited for brokering a deal between the West Indies players and management to ensure the tour went ahead. He flew back to Johannesburg from London with the players, but refused to divulge details of the deal. "It looked as if the impasse was never going to be broken," Dr Bacher said, "but, in the end, common sense prevailed."

It is West Indies' first tour of South Africa, after the lifting of sporting sanctions, and the prospect that it might be cancelled at the eleventh hour would have been a huge disappointment for South African cricket supporters. For the white minority, the tour is the chance to see a team they could only previously admire from afar, but for their black compatriots it means much more. It is hoped that a tour by a flamboyant, all-black team will spur cricket development in South Africa.

"If you asked a black youngster in the townships about their favourite cricketers, they would probably be politically correct and say Hansie Cronje and Jonty Rhodes, but there is no doubt that Brian Lara and Curtly Ambrose are their role models," David Richardson, the former South Africa wicket-keeper, said. "They will inspire young black cricketers and that can only be good for us. In that sense, it was very important the tour went ahead."

Later, at a press conference,

Lara tried to set the record straight and get the tour off to a positive start. Refusing to divulge details of the "confidential" talks in London that finally settled the dispute, he apologised to South Africans for the delayed start to the tour and thanked President Nelson Mandela for intervening in the crisis. He said the letter, sent individually to each player by President Mandela had given them food for thought.

Lara fended off suggestions that he had behaved irresponsibly and said that the players were looking forward to their opening match in Soweto today against a Gauteng Invitational XI that will feature development players.

Khaya Majola, the head of amateur cricket at the UC-



Bacher: brokered deal

SA, spoke of the relief in South African cricket circles that the tour was going ahead. He believed that the tour would greatly enhance cricket development in the country. "When the match in Soweto is televised live, it will inspire the whole country," Majola said. "Crickets will be the winner."

His sentiments were echoed by Richardson, who believes that Lara and his team-mates can repair the damage to the team's reputation. "They will have to work hard to win back support and popularity," Richardson said. "This is easily done, though, by simply showing up and being committed with a smile on your face. I don't think the South African public wants any more than that."

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND XI: First Innings 167 (N Hussain 57, O G Cork 51).

Second Innings: M A Butcher b Gillespie 153; M A Atherton run out 123; N Hussain lbw b Hartley 17; J A Stewart lbw b Stewart 223; G P Thorpe not out 140; M R Ramprakash not out 140; Extras (D 2, lb 10, w 1, nb 6) 25; Total (8 wickets) 457.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-72, 3-75, 4-80. BOWLING: Gillespie 27-14-52-1; Hartley 31-7-87-1; Arnold 25-6-119-2; Johnson 15-2-45-0; Blewett 13-3-23-1; Cook 25-5-91-0; Paul 4-0-21-0.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: First Innings 325 (G S Blewett 143, J M Vaughan 58; Cork 4 for 48).

Umpires: P G Parker and S J Davies.

a precious injection of confidence for a man who has suffered chronic self-doubt since midsummer. Ramprakash made 140 not out and, in the process, reconfirmed his hold on the Test place that he has never believed has been anything more than on loan. And England remained unbeaten on tour, which is not quite the hollow achievement that it may sound.

The fact that they have been outplayed in consecutive games by depleted state teams is not a damning recommendation of England's prospects in the serious business ahead, but their tenacity on the final

Ponting points Australia to one-day best

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF



Ponting plays a straight bat during Australia's run chase

AUSTRALIA set a record for a team batting second in a one-day international when they overhauled Pakistan's score of 315 for eight to win by six wickets with seven balls to spare in Lahore, Australia, for whom Adam Gilchrist and Ricky Ponting both scored centuries in a match full of records, won the series 3-0.

Ponting batted through to the finish, hitting an unbeaten 123 that included ten fours off 129 balls. Ijaz Ahmed and Yousuf Yohanna also struck centuries in the imposing Pakistan total, which beat their previous highest one-day total against Australia — 280 for seven at Trent Bridge in the 1979 World Cup — but their bowlers were unable to contain the Australia batsmen.

Australia lost Mark Waugh with the score on 25, but, then on, Gilchrist and Ponting made batting look easy, putting on 193 in 177 balls, a record for any wicket in a Pakistan v Australia one-day game. Gilchrist, the Western Australia vice-captain, struck his third century in one-day matches in exactly 100 balls.

His 12 fours included many delightful strokes. Ponting, of Tasmania, kept pace with his partner to complete his fifth one-day century in 109 balls, hitting nine fours.

"It's a fantastic win and Ponting and Gilchrist made chasing 316 look easy," Steve Waugh, the Australia captain, said.

Gilchrist was finally stumped by Moin Khan off

Aamir Sohail for 103. Moin had missed an opportunity to dismiss Gilchrist, when the batsman was on 83, when he fumbled a chance off Aamir. Darren Lehmann fell after making eight, but Steve Waugh, who scored 30, added another 69 runs with Ponting to take Australia within sight of their target.

Pakistan owed their total to a fourth-wicket stand between

SCOREBOARD FROM LAHORE

Table with 2 columns: PAKISTAN and AUSTRALIA. Lists players and their scores.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-50, 3-73, 4-225, 5-228, 6-303, 7-303, 8-315. BOWLING: McGrath 10-0-58-2; Fleming 10-3-44-0; Julian 10-0-75-2; S R Waugh 10-3-14-0; Young 8-0-40-0; Samra 20-1-14-0; M E Waugh 2-0-16-0; Lehmann 2-0-16-1.

Ijaz and Yousuf who put on 162 in 167 balls. For Ijaz, it was his eighth one-day hundred, in his 213rd match, and his innings contained 11 fours and a six. He was finally dismissed by 111, off 109 balls, the highest individual score in a one-day international by a Pakistani player against Australia, surpassing the score of 109 by Zaheer Abbas in Lahore in 1982-83.

However, Yousuf was the more aggressive of the two, reaching his maiden limited-over century off 109 balls, including 14 fours. Steve Waugh used eight bowlers in an attempt to dislodge the pair and it was Lehmann who finally made the breakthrough, bowling Ijaz with his second ball.

Zimbabwe coast to victory

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

Sri Lanka began their reply poorly, losing Kaluwitharana and Jayasuriya cheaply, and wickets fell steadily until Tillakaratne and Dharmasena joined forces with the score on 103 for six. Thoughts of victory were raised by their 93-run partnership, but Tillakaratne was left high and dry on 72 as the innings folded with seven balls to spare.

Paul Strang was the outstanding bowler of the day, keeping the Sri Lanka pinch-hitters at bay with figures of four for 32 from his ten overs. He was named man of the match for his efforts. □ Trevor Penney, the Warwickshire batsman, has turned down the chance to play in the World Cup next year. Zimbabwe tried to persuade him to give up his career in county cricket to return to play for his native country, but Penney has said that he intends to stay with Warwickshire.

SCOREBOARD FROM SHARJAH

Table with 2 columns: ZIMBABWE and SRI LANKA. Lists players and their scores.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-38, 3-75, 4-75, 5-86, 6-103, 7-186, 8-209, 9-224. BOWLING: Brandes 40-51-1; Strang 9-0-51-0; Johnson 8-5-1-42-1; Strang 10-0-41-0; Goodwin 2-0-14-0.



# SATURDAY. ANYTHING BUT A DAY OF REST.

SPORT  
**Vision**  
WEEKEND  
**metro**

the times  
magazine

**meg@**

THE  TIMES

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY  
FOOTBALL  
**Reid plots  
further  
glory for  
Sunderland**

*[Faded newspaper text]*



**Strik**

the opportunity  
**TODAY'S FIXTURES**  
*[Faded newspaper text]*

مَكْنَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ



# Reid plots further glory for Sunderland

By George Caulkin

PETER REID takes considerable pride in declaring himself the product of "a mixed marriage". On occasions, he says — derby days, for instance — it made growing up on a Liverpool housing estate somewhat trying. "I was a Red, dad was a Red and my mum was a Blue," he explains. It is a phenomenon familiar to many Merseyside families.

Tonight, the Sunderland manager takes his team home; top of the Nationwide League first division and unbeaten in all 22 of their matches this season, they face Everton in the fourth round of the Worthington Cup, Goodison Park, where Reid the Liverpool fan scaled the greatest peaks as a player in the Eighties, will be awash with nostalgia.

"Part of my heart is still there and I don't think I'll ever lose that," Reid said yesterday. "I had a fantastic spell there as a player. The only sadness was not being able to compete more often in Europe, but it's a brilliant football club, one I was proud to play for and it's great to be going back."

In his six years with Everton, Reid was part of a side that, under the guiding hand of Howard Kendall, won two league championships, the FA Cup and in 1985 the Cup Winners' Cup. It is the latter — and the second leg of the semi-final of the same tournament, when Everton beat Bayern Munich, then the Continent's best team, 3-1 — that provides Reid with his happiest highlights.

If Reid has sporadically suffered from a touch of insomnia in the intervening years, it has usually been down to the frustrating quirks of fate that afflict every manager. His record when returning to Everton has been "50-50", but the loss of several key players for the match tonight has hardly been conducive to peaceful rest. The return of Lee Clark, who broke his right foot on the first day of the season, to the substitute bench is a rare, welcome fillip.

Ruud Gullit, the Newcastle United manager, launched a withering attack on Leeds United last night, accusing the Yorkshire club of attempting to unseat David Batty, Newcastle's England midfielder player. Having already rejected Leeds's very public courtship of their former player, Gullit insisted he was to table bids for "a striker and a defender", at Elland Road.

"I'm interested in two Leeds players," Gullit said. "They are very unhappy, but I would not have said that if Leeds had not said the same and done it first." Gullit was almost certainly making reference to Lucas Radebe, the Leeds captain, who is in the process of negotiating a new contract, and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, their Holland forward.

Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, was set on a collision course with Charlton Athletic last night after calling up Mark Kinsella, the FA Carling Premiership club's midfielder player, for the rearranged European championship qualifying match against Yugoslavia next Wednesday.

Having failed in an attempt to postpone their league match with Middlesbrough on Saturday, Charlton insisted yesterday they would refuse to adhere to the five-day ruling that would deny them the services of Kinsella and Sasa Ilic, their Yugoslavian goalkeeper, arguing they have not received the appropriate written notification.

Lawrie McMenemy, the Northern Ireland manager, must await the fall-out of this weekend's domestic programme, unable to invoke the five-day rule for Northern Ireland's group three match with Moldova because the date is set aside for international friendly matches.

Ireland Squad: S. Gaven (Newcastle United), D. Hoyle (Ipswich), D. O'Brien (Aston Villa), D. Hoyle (Ipswich), S. Gaven (Newcastle United), I. Harte (Leeds United), K. Cunningham (Wolverhampton Wanderers), P. Babb (Sheff Wed), G. Breen (Coventry City), R. Keane (Manchester United), M. Kinsella (Charlton Athletic), K. McLaughlin (Doncaster Rovers), D. O'Brien (Ipswich), G. Blackburn (Bradford City), T. Blackburn (Bradford City), N. Quinn (Sheff Wed), S. Dalton (Ipswich), G. O'Brien (Wolverhampton Wanderers), K. O'Neil (Newcastle United).

Northern Ireland Squad: A. Fife (Blackburn), M. Taylor (Fulham), T. Wright (Sheff Wed), C. Day (Hull City), K. McLaughlin (Doncaster Rovers), A. Hughes (Newcastle United), S. Morrow (Queens Park Rangers), C. Hill (Northampton Town), K. Howland (Queens Park Rangers), D. Patterson (Dundee United), P. Kennedy (Wolves), M. Hughes (Wolverhampton Wanderers), G. O'Brien (Wolverhampton Wanderers), J. Down (Queens Park Rangers), G. O'Boyle (Ipswich), J. Quinn (West Bromwich Albion).

# Terriers in dogged pursuit of a dream

George Caulkin visits Bedlington, where the Cup is proving a welcome distraction to economic realities

The biggest game in Bedlington Terriers' history is but a few days away and there are flocks of sawdust in Keith Perry's hair from the hurried work being carried out on the stands. Any chance of a low-key build-up is long gone; a gale is blowing across the ground and someone from Notts County was on the phone five minutes ago asking about the club's leading goalscorer. Oh yes, and half of the team have just been laid off.

Welcome to the harsh realities of non-league football. Wandering about all that money swilling around in the FA Carling Premiership? They do it at Welfare Park, where two failed applications for National Lottery funds resulted in Bedlington reluctantly refusing promotion to the UniBond League last season. Costs, you see.

There is no need to question the extent of the recession here, not when 350 local people — including Bedlington's coach, goalkeeper, a centre half and a striker — are serving notice at the Wilkinson Sword factory a few miles down the road, not when 1,000 are going at the Siemens plant. Not when taken together with all the other job losses, all the other small tragedies. If the FA Cup first-round tie with Colchester United on Saturday might seem like a side issue, it is not here. Never here.

"There are five players who are going to be out of work by the turn of the year, but credit to them, they just get on with it," Perry, Bedlington-born, Bedlington-bred and, for the past five years, manager and benefactor to his local side, said. "They're married, they've got families and kids, but it just seems reflective of the bad time the North East is going through at the minute."

"But football can surprise you sometimes. The town is really buzzing because of this Cup run. Bedlington has a population of 35 to 40,000 and they had finished their shifts". The town's two mines have been closed for almost 20 years. The club's old pitch is a Presto car park.

Despite the extra expense — for these past few years he has financed all the ground improvements — Perry, who owns a civil engineering company, is rightly proud that Welfare Park is staging the tie. "We could have moved the game, but at the end of the day, it's Bedlington's match, Bedlington's heritage, Bedlington's prestige," he said. "It's history being made and it should be played here."

Full to its 3,000 capacity — "we could have sold double" — the ground will be bursting with pride. That the game is going ahead at all is something of a minor miracle, one that mirrors the Terriers' transformation from ten points adrift at the bottom of the Northern League second division, the nadir where Perry's tenure began, to promotion to the first division in the Northumberland Senior Cup, to this.

They have played six matches, encompassing two replays and two penalty shoot-outs, and, along the way, have had to stump up a £150 FA fine for filling in a team-sheet incorrectly. Understandably, team spirit is immense. "The lads would die for each other and they'd run through brick walls for me," Perry said.

A draw against Colchester would do very nicely, maybe attract some serious sponsorship, or further raise the profile of John Milner, 23, scorer of 26 goals this season — including, at 55sec, the quickest in the FA Cup thus far — and who has already roused interest from Burnley, Stoke City, Tranmere Rovers and Oxford United. At the very least, it would show that the populace of Bedlington, despite all the blows, are still standing. And still kicking footballs.

Goran Ivanisevic, who has designs on a reserve berth in Hanover, maintained his own drive with a first-round defeat of Carsten Arriens, of Germany, also in two tie-break sets.

The Croatian is one place below Kafelnikov in the rankings.

Rugby League Goodway offers solution

ANDY GOODWAY, the Great Britain coach, said yesterday that a vote of confidence in him by the Rugby Football League, his employer, had been unnecessary after the 2-0 winning lead taken by New Zealand in the three-match Lincoln Finance series last Saturday (Christopher Irvine writes).

"International football has taken several backdoor steps and we're eight months down the line of trying to bring it forwards again," he said. "Everyone seems to think that by pulling on a red, white and blue jumper, it starts everything on a level playing field."

Goodway, in the first year of a three-year contract up to the 2000 World Cup, partly blamed the series loss on inexperience and players who had difficulty making the transition from club level. He wants more international competition built into a controversial framework next year of six additional JTB Super League games, in which leading players could play up to 40 club matches.

The coach said that he expected a big improvement from his players at Watford on Saturday, in response to the threat of a series whitewash.

Six players, including Iestyn Harris, were unable to train yesterday, although Harris said that his groin injury was improving. Adrian Morley has little chance of recovering from the ankle injury that prevented him playing in the first two matches.



All play and no work: Perry, centre, is proud of his players' achievements in reaching the first round while under the threat of unemployment

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# Striking shortage provides Flo with his chance

By Stephen Wood

The meeting between Arsenal and Chelsea in the League Cup last season produced two enthralling contests laced with seven goals. The encounter at Highbury tonight, in the fourth round of the Worthington Cup, should hold the attention no less, although hopes for a similar goal return appear fanciful.

Chelsea emerged as winners of the two-legged semi-final, back in February of this year, on their way to claiming what was then the Coca-Cola Cup, the first success for Gianluca Vialli as player-manager. That the match this evening will probably not yield as many goals is not just because it is a single-leg tie.

Both sides will bring their attacking problems to the occasion. Chelsea are without Brian Laudrup, who has left for FC Copenhagen, and Pierluigi Casiraghi, a long-term injury victim. It is a wonderful opportunity for Tore Andre Flo, who is expected to partner Gianfranco Zola up front, but, should either fail, Chelsea now have precious few options.

Arsenal have options, despite calls for Arsene Wenger, the manager, to strengthen the striking department of his squad. However, the problem is that Wenger wants to rest his regular first-team players and use the club's reserves, which means that Christopher Wreh, Luis Boa Morte and Fabien Cabalero, an Argentina-born striker on loan at Highbury, will contest the striking places. "My policy for the Chelsea match will be exactly the same as when we played Derby in the last round," Wenger said.

There are two riders to add to that, though, the main one being that Dennis Bergkamp could have some part to play in proceedings. He is still shaking off the effects of a back injury, but, he plays, neither the first time nor Arsenal's hopes for the Holland forward, Tony Adams, the England defender, could be on the substitutes' bench.

The level of each club's ambition in this competition is easily judged by the team that they field and, like Arsenal, the Manchester United XI that takes on Nottingham Forest at Old Trafford will be some variation of the reserves. Ronny Johnsen would have featured but for news that the ankle injury he aggravated, against Newcastle United in the FA Carling Premiership last Sunday

could force him out until the new year. Andy Cole and Jesper Blomqvist are suffering from hamstring and foot ailments respectively, although Blomqvist's complaint is not as serious as at first thought. No matter — young players such as Jonathan Greening, Erik Nevland, Mark Wilson and Michael Clegg will be entrusted with United's progress again by Alex Ferguson, the manager.

The same, indifferent attitude will not be seen in the other ties. Indeed, Leeds United, for their game away to Leicester City, have successfully persuaded Howard Wilkinson, the man in charge of the England under-18 set-up, to release Jonathan Woodgate from a training camp so that he can line up in the heart of their defence.

THE MATCH AT FILBERT STREET is given an interesting note by the confrontation of managers. David O'Leary is still relatively new in his job at Leeds, the position that Martin O'Neill, who knows Leicester inside out, could easily have taken.

Roy Hodgson, the Blackburn Rovers manager, will be another manager calling on reserve players for the match away to Newcastle United, although it is more through necessity than choice.

Tim Flowers, the goalkeeper, is out with an injury to his left arm, while the Blackburn forward line is again disrupted because Chris Sutton, who is suspended, and Nathan Blake, who is ineligible, are unavailable. More striking problems; it does not bode well for a scintillating night.

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By Christopher Irvine

THE MOTOR RALLYING: Officials of the Network Q Rally of Great Britain have succeeded in their bid to increase the size of the field for the event this year. The final round of the world championship has attracted an entry of 169 cars, although a limit of 160 was originally placed on the rally, which starts in Cheltenham on November 22. Now, the FIA, motor sport's world governing body, has given permission to raise the maximum number of cars able to compete in the event.

THE BOWLS: A makeshift Ireland team made life difficult for the already struggling Hoog Kong International Classic Pairs tournament at Kowloon yesterday, while England, the holders, chalked up three narrow victories. Sammy Allen, of Ireland, was joined by Jimmy Chui, one of the rising stars of Hoog Kong bowls, rather than Jeremy Henry, who was ruled out by work commitments. "We've struck up a useful partnership," Allen said, after they had topped Raymond Logan and Graham Robertson 22-19.

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Full to its 3,000 capacity — "we could have sold double" — the ground will be bursting with pride. That the game is going ahead at all is something of a minor miracle, one that mirrors the Terriers' transformation from ten points adrift at the bottom of the Northern League second division, the nadir where Perry's tenure began, to promotion to the first division in the Northumberland Senior Cup, to this.

They have played six matches, encompassing two replays and two penalty shoot-outs, and, along the way, have had to stump up a £150 FA fine for filling in a team-sheet incorrectly. Understandably, team spirit is immense. "The lads would die for each other and they'd run through brick walls for me," Perry said.

A draw against Colchester would do very nicely, maybe attract some serious sponsorship, or further raise the profile of John Milner, 23, scorer of 26 goals this season — including, at 55sec, the quickest in the FA Cup thus far — and who has already roused interest from Burnley, Stoke City, Tranmere Rovers and Oxford United. At the very least, it would show that the populace of Bedlington, despite all the blows, are still standing. And still kicking footballs.

Goran Ivanisevic, who has designs on a reserve berth in Hanover, maintained his own drive with a first-round defeat of Carsten Arriens, of Germany, also in two tie-break sets.

The Croatian is one place below Kafelnikov in the rankings.

Rugby League Goodway offers solution

ANDY GOODWAY, the Great Britain coach, said yesterday that a vote of confidence in him by the Rugby Football League, his employer, had been unnecessary after the 2-0 winning lead taken by New Zealand in the three-match Lincoln Finance series last Saturday (Christopher Irvine writes).

"International football has taken several backdoor steps and we're eight months down the line of trying to bring it forwards again," he said. "Everyone seems to think that by pulling on a red, white and blue jumper, it starts everything on a level playing field."

Goodway, in the first year of a three-year contract up to the 2000 World Cup, partly blamed the series loss on inexperience and players who had difficulty making the transition from club level. He wants more international competition built into a controversial framework next year of six additional JTB Super League games, in which leading players could play up to 40 club matches.

The coach said that he expected a big improvement from his players at Watford on Saturday, in response to the threat of a series whitewash.

Six players, including Iestyn Harris, were unable to train yesterday, although Harris said that his groin injury was improving. Adrian Morley has little chance of recovering from the ankle injury that prevented him playing in the first two matches.

THE MATCH AT FILBERT STREET is given an interesting note by the confrontation of managers. David O'Leary is still relatively new in his job at Leeds, the position that Martin O'Neill, who knows Leicester inside out, could easily have taken.

Roy Hodgson, the Blackburn Rovers manager, will be another manager calling on reserve players for the match away to Newcastle United, although it is more through necessity than choice.

Tim Flowers, the goalkeeper, is out with an injury to his left arm, while the Blackburn forward line is again disrupted because Chris Sutton, who is suspended, and Nathan Blake, who is ineligible, are unavailable. More striking problems; it does not bode well for a scintillating night.

THE CROATIAN IS ONE PLACE below Kafelnikov in the rankings.

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# Richard Eaton finds reason for fresh hope in badminton Park promises rich rewards

Richard Eaton, the English language part of his ambition to become the world's greatest badminton coach. The former world and All England doubles champion has already been, in many eyes, the sport's greatest all-around player and now, two years after retiring from playing, he has become the only Asian in any sport to take charge of an English national squad.

There were certainly less difficult ways in which Park might have pursued his aim, for his cultural goals have landed him with the task of helping England recover from a decade-long slide, but there have been improvements in the past 18 months, wrought by a new, young and talented coaching staff, of which Park has been a part, and the six-match international series between England and China this week marks another step forward. Park, who won a gold medal at the Barcelona Olympic Games and a silver in Atlanta, has been placed in overall charge for two of the matches and of the few players with chances of winning Great Britain's first badminton medal at an Olympic Games.

"We have a realistic hope in Sydney," Stephen Baddeley, the chief executive of the Badminton Association of England, said. "We are now giving Park more responsibility and he will work with a smaller group and a more focused programme."



Park is a study of concentration as he watches players from the sidelines during an England training session

This group includes Joanne Goode, the only player to win three gold medals at the Commonwealth Games, and Simon Archer and Chris Hunt, surprise winners of the European men's doubles title.

Park is at the cutting edge of a push for tougher professionalism. The matches against China sees England without two singles players — Peter Knowles and Colin Haughton — who were suspended for misbehaviour during the Dutch Open last month. At least half a dozen others have received punishments or reprimands during the past year.

England players have had inadequate financial reward and limited coaching for too long, which has often had a detrimental effect on attitude. This has begun to change since the introduction of increased funding through the National Lottery and so has the coaching staff's attitudes to discipline.

This was the area of greatest cultural shock for Park, who was not used to players answering back and found it hard to understand why three days of national training was not six. This was not surprising, for Korean training has long been a darkly humorous euphemism within the international game for punishment runs at gam.

Park is not likely to demand these, though. Highly educated and increasingly adaptable, he knows that the best solution is to try to create ways of marrying Western individualism with Eastern commitment, although it often goes against his deepest instincts.

Fortunately, perhaps, some pioneering footsteps had already been made. Lee Jae Bok, Park's compatriot, became an outstanding British Olympic coach before returning home in 1996. He warned Park about conflict emanating from

## It has often been frustrating for him, but he has taken it well

cultural differences. "It is not possible just to tell a European player what to do; it is important to persuade," Lee said. It was also Lee who persuaded Park to come to Britain. "He came to me when he had finished playing because he was unsure what to do," Lee said. "I said: 'Go to England now while you are still well-known. Learn your trade and you can soon become as fine a coach as you have been a player.'"

The change did not happen overnight. During his first year in England, Park's ability to communicate was limited. There were frequent telephone calls home, trips to London to buy Korean food and still stronger feelings of homesickness when he met other Kore-

ans at tournaments. Yet following the fortunes of Manchester United, developing a taste for Boddington's beer and the integration of his four-year-old son, Kwang Ryoul, in a local school gradually had a settling effect. So, too, did the realisation that he carries an aura that greatly impresses English players.

"We are lucky to have him," Hunt said. "He is an inspiration." Though Hunt and Archer hold the world speed-hitting record, they often cannot hit through Park's quick-witted, nimble-footed defence during practice.

Park's job will soon be made easier by the £4 million up-grading of the sport's national centre, which should be completed in another six months.

This will increase the number of courts and accommodation, but, according to Baddeley: "It's been difficult for him. He clearly has very strong views about what it takes to be a top player. Important players are totally committed, others only think they are, but we can't turn it into a situation where whatever Park says is gospel — we have to work in a more co-operative and consultative fashion. It has often been very frustrating for him, but he has taken it well. I don't think there will be an enormous difficulty in another 12 months."

By then, the Sydney Olympics will be only a few months away and Park will be near the end of his intended stay, although he has been writing to English universities and hopes to remain to study for a PhD. If he does, England might hold on to their inspiration from the East for longer than expected.

## Sad day for old soldiers

The Soldiers' Pilgrimage  
BBC2, 7.20pm

Although it was made last year, this film about 14 old soldiers in the First World War visiting battlefields and cemeteries in Belgium loses none of its impact. These were veterans in every sense, the youngest 97, the oldest, George Littlefair, 101. Another celebrates his 101st birthday during the trip. The most affecting moment is when Littlefair finally tracks down the grave of his best friend, a lad of 18 who was shot by a sniper in 1917. Littlefair's granddaughter is every bit as emotional as he is. The programme's sub-text is the contrast between what these frail old men went through and the half century of comparative peace enjoyed by the post-1945 generation. As poignant as anything in the film itself is the knowledge that six of the 14 men have since died.



Morse (John Thaw) is taken ill but still tackles a Victorian mystery (ITV, 8pm)

Inspector Morse: The Wench Is Dead  
ITV, 8.00pm

Two things distinguish the latest *Morse* from its 31 predecessors: the murder is 140 years old and John Thaw's sidekick is not the much-abused Lewis but a young fast-track graduate played by Matthew Finney. At one time it seems that the first corpse of the night could be that of Morse himself. Collapsing at a crime convention, he is found to be suffering from a peptic ulcer and possibly something worse. But he pulls through and uses his enforced stay in hospital to solve a Victorian crime for which two canal boatmen were publicly executed. In Morse's view, wrongly, hanged. That this scenario is even more unlikely than the usual Morse plot will not worry his millions of followers, who can enjoy a literate script by Malcolm Bradbury, the return of Judy Lee as Morse's lady friend and a bigger role than usual for James Grouts splendidly irascible Chief Superintendent.

Talking Heads: Waiting for the Telegram  
BBC2, 9.50pm

Played to the life by Thora Hird, a favourite Alan Bennett actress. Violet is in her nineties and lives in what is euphemistically called a rest home. A stroke has left her struggling for words and when her son visits she does not recognise him. Come to that she cannot remember getting married, though

her recollection of an unconsummated romance with a young man who went off to die in the First World War is sharp and full of emotion. This last in the current *Talking Heads* series is the bleakest, a study of old age that spares nothing in its dissection of a failing mind and crumbling body. When Hird breaks down into sobs, the effect is overwhelming. The nearest thing to comic relief is when a male resident of the home exposes himself. "He could have been a bank manager," Violet muses, "except he had no socks on."

Comedy Lab  
Channel 4, 11.30pm

It was only a matter of time before somebody sent up that burgeoning television genre the documentary soap, and here is Peter Kay doing it in style in the first of a series showcasing new comedy performers. The site is a motorway service area in Lancashire where the characters include the harassed manageress, a former RAC man trying to establish his own breakdown service, a would-be actor who is meanwhile cleaning the lavatories and a coach driver with a habit of losing his passengers. Every one of them, not to mention a DJ who uses the station forecourt to broadcast his wares, is played by Kay, who also wrote the show. His humour is all the more effective for being understated, so much so that this could almost be the real thing. Peter Waymark

Afternoon Play: Strange Meeting  
Radio 4, 2.15pm

This play for Armistice Day is an atmospheric and moving account, by Peter Wolf, of the last hours of Wilfred Owen's life (he was killed just before the armistice) and the title comes from Owen's great poem. The sense of despair mingled with camaraderie in the trenches is brilliantly conveyed, particularly by Alex Jennings as the captain and Paul Rice as Owen. We have a poignant pleading with the captain: "It's futile now, so few of us left, attacking the enemy when both they and we know, any moment this war'll end." To which the reply, equally weary, is: "Sergeant, this is our martial talk." Wolf's play is elevated by the device of portraying Owen's last hours through his own eyes and through those of the man who shot him.

Costing the Earth  
Radio 4, 9.00pm

A new series of the environment programme that has proven to be excellent at cutting through the thickets of verbosity that emerge from grandiose, inter-government environmental conferences and the like to tell us what is actually happening. Tonight the promised clean-up of the North Sea is the focus, John Prescott having returned from the summit conference this year pledged to get out Britain's oil, gas, and coal reserves. Unfortunately all the North Sea countries have a lot to do before the next EU report in two years' time and there is little encouragement to be found in the home of the Eurocracy, Brussels, which the programme reckons is one of the most polluted cities in all of Europe. Peter Beard

RADIO 1

6.30am Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whitey. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce 8.00 Steve Lamacq. The Evening Session 10.00 Movie Update 10.10 John Peel 12.00 Giles Peterson 2.00am Charlie Jordan 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Newsbeat 1.00 Nick Grimshaw 2.00 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Nick Barnsdoogh 8.00 Mike Harding 9.00 All Shinging, All Dancing. All Night 10.00 Radio 2 Classic Albums Fleetwood Mac's Rumours 10.30 Richard Allison 12.00 Katrina Leschichin 3.00am Tom Dubs

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am Breakfast, with Julian Worricker and Victoria Derbyshire 8.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News, with Arno Wilder 1.00pm Hussey and Co 4.00 Drive Peter Allen and Jane Gavan present the day's events and sports action 7.00 News Extra 7.30 John Inverdale's Football Night, Action from the fourth round of the Worthington Cup Plus, the National Lottery Result 10.00 Lorraine 11.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night 5.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Chris Evans 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Bobby Hart 6.45 Hamet Scott 10.00 Mark Forrest 1.00am James Mami 4.30 Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO

6.30am Bill Overton and Kirsty Young 9.00 Scott Chisholm 11.00 Lorraine Kelly 1.00pm Anna Rieburn 3.00 Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Nick Abbot 9.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins and the Creators of the Night 5.00 Gill Overton

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Mozart (Rondo in A major), Tchaikovsky (Eugene Onegin, excerpt), Ravel (Bolero), de Coenighe 9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hickory. Includes Tchaikovsky (Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture), Glazunov (Violin Concerto), Schubert (Pulse, Die Schöne Müllerin), Liszt (Hungarian Rhapsody No 9 in E flat), Hindemith (Symphony: Males der Males) 10.30 Artist of the Week: Mstislav Rostropovich 11.00 Sound Stories: Elinor Candless Fichard Baker looks at the life of the Romanian pianist Dinu Lipatti 12.00 Composer of the Week: Debussy 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert: New Generation Ensemble. Includes: Concerto, clavier, Alexandre Tharaud, piano, Weber (Grand duo concertant, Op 48); Schumann (Fantasietücke, Op 73); Berg (Four Pieces, Op 31); Poulenc (Sonata) 2.00 The BBC Orchestras The BBC Philharmonic under Tadaaki Otaka and Yan Pascal Tortelier; Takemitsu (Requiem for Strings), Takemitsu (Requiem for Strings), Debussy (La Mer), Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 3 in C minor), Dvorak (Symphony No 8 in G) 4.00 Choral Eveninging Live from the Chapel of Clare

RADIO 4

6.00am Today with John Humphrys and James Naughtie. Includes 6.55, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament 9.00 Midweek with the Times columnist Libby Purves 9.45 (FM) Serials: Memoirs of an Infantry Officer James Wilby reads Siegfried Sassoon's autobiographical novel about the horrors of life in the trenches of the First World War (3 of 4) 10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray 11.00 Live Loggans: Smugglers Beware Customs officers keep their eyes peeled for travellers' inlets made from endangered species 11.30 Funny Bones Jimmy Tarbuck and Rhona Cameron discuss comedy through the ages 12.00 News 12.04pm You and Yours 12.00 (LW) News Headlines: Shipping Forecast 1.00 The World at One with Nick Clooney 1.30 Wordly Wise Graham Norton, Jim Tavaré, Susan Jefferys and Richard Vanech explore words and language in the panel game, chaired by Peter Goodhart 2.00 The Archers (1) 2.15 Afternoon Play: Strange Meeting See Choice 3.00 Gardeners' Question Time Caroline Barber, Nigel Colburn and John Custine answer horticultural questions. Chaired by Eric Robson (1) 3.30 Powerful Substances: A look at the increasingly popular commodity 3.45 Cautionary Tales Hilarie Belloc's classic, read by Alan Bennett, and Matthew Sweeney reads from his own work 4.00 Case Notes Graham Ericson finds out how good nutrition may provide the key to avoiding disease (1) 4.30 Thinking Allowed with Laura Taylor 5.00 PM with Charlie Lee-Potter and Nigel Wrench

6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Rainer Hersch's All Classical Music Explained When is the night time to clap in classical concert? 7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row A legend of Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, Terry Gilliam's film starring Johnny Depp and Christina Ricci, directed by Terry Gilliam 7.45 Still Waters (1) 8.00 The Moral Maze Michael Bush ponders ethical issues behind the week's news with Janet Daley, David Starkey, David Cook and Ian Hargreaves 8.45 Kermie's Competition Nick Walker embarks on a journey across Europe, reflecting on his career in international journalism before and after he was confined to a wheelchair (1) 9.00 Costing the Earth News series See Choice 9.30 Midweek (1) 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Le Grand Meaulnes Philip Franks reads Alan-Fourier's passionate tale of adolescent idealism (3 of 10) 11.00 Late Night on 4: Five Squeaky Pieces Oilbeat comedy sketches, by David Cairns, Julia Davis, Manu McErlane, Miffa Sze and Arabella Wier 11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament A roundup of the day's events in Westminster 11.30 Radio Shuttleworth Graham Fellows as singer-songwriter John Shuttleworth talks to celebrity 12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book News of a Kidnapping Sean Barrett reads part eight of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's account of drug cartels in Colombia (3 of 10) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service 5.30 Inshore Forecast 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8; RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2; RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4; RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.8; LW 198; MW 720; RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 690, 909; WORLD SERVICE, MW 630, 909; VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215; TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

### WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

**ALPARGATA**  
(a) A type of sandal. The Spanish word. "My companions wore alpargatas, namely, canvas shoes with thick soles of plaited hemp or grass."

**FOSSOR**  
(a) One of the burrowing Hymenoptera, the digger-wasps, formerly described as Fossors. The Latin means a digger or someone who digs a fossa. "Each fossor lives an entirely independent life."

**BAHADUR**  
(b) A great man, a distinguished personage. catch. Often affixed as a title to an officer's name. The Hindi word means a hero or champion. "There is nothing of the great bahadur about him; he is easy of access, civil, and obliging to all who approach him."

**FLOBERT**  
(c) A carriage or breech-loading rifle for the cartridge. The eponym of N. Flobert, a French armorer (1819-94). "The Flobert cartridge is notable as being an evolution of the percussion cap."

**SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE**  
1... Qxc2 leaves White without a decent reply, as 2 Qxc2 Rxe1 is checkmate.

THE TIMES

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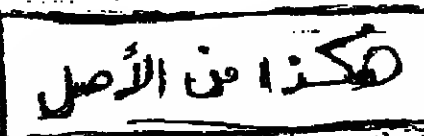
Calls cost 50p per minute



CALIFORNIA ZINFANDEL  
Perfect without goats cheese tartlet and herb salad.



SUTTER HOME CALIFORNIA WINES.  
They don't need food to make sense.



THE TIMES WEEKLY  
Editor.



Editor, there seems to be a tongue in my cheek

For the most part, Riete Oord, who directed last night's Cutting Edge...

likes to handle its relations with the press. It is surprising that it hasn't made Hello!

Although renowned for its never-knowingly unimpering manner towards the rich and famous, Hello!

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

on - the people we're featuring, I don't think we can take the credit for causing the divorces.

it's a history of our life and times. Surprising, then, that you so rarely read articles in Hello!

imagine Maggie Koumi fighting to pay big money for exclusive rights to the story of Shaun's gracious life and times.

an eye-opening account of what Butlins's new managing director, Tony Marshall, learnt when he briefly became a Redcoat at the Minehead camp.

Table listing TV programs on BBC1, BBC2, and HTV channels, including titles like '6.00am Business Breakfast', '7.00am The Rite of Spring', etc.

Table listing TV programs on BBC2, HTV, and CENTRAL channels, including titles like '6.00am GMTV', '9.25 Trisha', '10.15 This Morning', etc.

Table listing TV programs on HTV, CENTRAL, and CHANNEL 4 channels, including titles like '6.00am GMTV', '9.25 Trisha', '10.15 This Morning', etc.

Table listing TV programs on CENTRAL, CHANNEL 4, and CHANNEL 5 channels, including titles like '6.00am Sesame Street', '7.00 The Big Breakfast', etc.

Table listing TV programs on CHANNEL 4 and CHANNEL 5 channels, including titles like '6.00am Sesame Street', '7.00 The Big Breakfast', etc.

Table listing TV programs on CHANNEL 5 and SATTELLITE channels, including titles like '6.00am 5 News and Sport', '7.00 WideWorld', etc.

For further listings see Saturday's Vision... SKY BOX OFFICE... SKY PREMIER... SKY SPORTS 1... SKY SPORTS 2... SKY SPORTS 3... SKY CINEMA... SKY GOLD... SKY SELECT [CABLE]... SKY MOVIE MAX...

SKY MOVIE MAX... SKY SPORTS 1... SKY SPORTS 2... SKY SPORTS 3... SKY CINEMA... SKY GOLD... SKY SELECT [CABLE]... SKY MOVIE MAX...

SATTELLITE AND CABLE... DISNEY CHANNEL... NICKELODEON... PARAMOUNT COMEDY... THE SCI-FI CHANNEL... SKY KIDS NETWORK... SKY SELECT [CABLE]...

SATTELLITE AND CABLE... DISNEY CHANNEL... NICKELODEON... PARAMOUNT COMEDY... THE SCI-FI CHANNEL... SKY KIDS NETWORK... SKY SELECT [CABLE]...

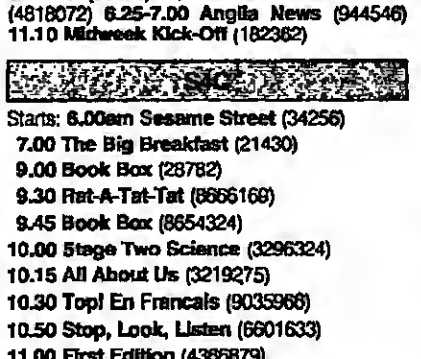
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SATTELLITE AND CABLE... DISNEY CHANNEL... NICKELODEON... PARAMOUNT COMEDY... THE SCI-FI CHANNEL... SKY KIDS NETWORK... SKY SELECT [CABLE]...



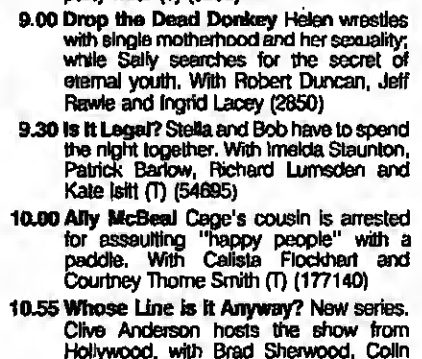
Clive James turns his critical eye on the pop music business (10.40pm)

Clive James on TV Clive James takes a look back at British television, with the help of his special guest, Lulu, and a celebrity audience (9.50pm)



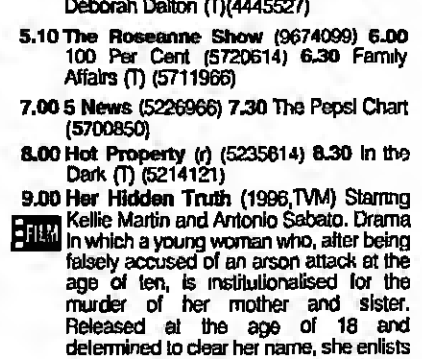
Peter Kay plays all the characters visiting a service station (11.30pm)

Comedy Lab (1/9) Highlighting the best of the new comedy performers and writers (8.05pm)



TV presenter Donna Air joins Melinda Messenger's chat show (10.50pm)

Melinda's Big Night In (8.40-9.15) Compromising Situations (9.75-10.10)



TV presenter Donna Air joins Melinda Messenger's chat show (10.50pm)

Melinda's Big Night In (8.40-9.15) Compromising Situations (9.75-10.10)



England begin to savour the joys of Park life



EXTRA 12 PAGES

## RUGBY UNION 42

Luger hits target as Woodward begins World Cup journey



# 'Bold' appointment welcomed FA gets help in move to tackle 'sleaze'

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE task of tackling the unsavoury side of football has been handed to a 37-year-old CID officer from Barnsley. From January, Graham Bean, who has been national chairman of the Football Supporters' Association (FSA) for the past two years, will be the game's first "sleazebuster" - investigating cases of financial irregularities, drug abuse, racism, violent play and misconduct.

His appointment by the Football Association, initially on a three-year contract, is intended to crack down on the sort of scandals that have plagued the sport in recent years, including the "bung" affair, in which George Graham was suspended from football for a year.

Bean will also possibly step in to interview players in such cases as the long-running feud between Ian Wright, the former Arsenal player, and Peter Schmeichel, the Manchester United goalkeeper, which did much to harm football because of the violence and allegations of racial abuse.

Bean, who has spent 14 of his 18 years' service with South Yorkshire Police as a detective constable, said that he did not expect "an easy ride. It will be a hard slog".

The FA said in a statement: "As compliance officer, he will be responsible for investigating and, where appropriate, prosecuting disciplinary cases and alleged breaches of the FA's rules and regulations. The post was originally recommended last year by Sir John Smith, a former Metropolitan Police deputy commissioner, in his report into football finances and reputations.

It is certainly an intriguing appointment. The FA has often been regarded with suspicion and sometimes hostility by the football authorities because its members have wanted to play an active role in the administration of the game.

Bean, who became an FSA member in 1990, has succeeded in breaking down these barriers and last year he was appointed to the Government's task force. He said: "It has to be plus that the FA has been bold enough to appoint a fans' representative."

He has also been involved, while a member of the FSA, in setting up a nationwide bank of solicitors and barristers with expertise in football-related law.

Bean, who principally supports Sheffield Wednesday



Bean: facing "hard slog"

"with a big corner of my heart for Barnsley", will step down as FSA chairman at its national committee meeting on November 15.

He will leave the police on January 3 after a career that saw him working with both the drug and fraud squads. An FSA statement congratulated Bean on his appointment, saying: "We are confident that he will continue to represent the interest of fans competently and effectively in his new post."

A married father of two, he was with his 8-year-old son at Hillsborough for the game against Arsenal on September 26, when Paolo Di Canio, the Sheffield Wednesday player, pushed Paul Alcock, the referee, to the ground.

Bean said that on their return home he was explaining to his wife how Di Canio would face a long ban - the Italian was suspended for 11 matches for that incident. "He is my lad's favourite player and he did not want him banned at all," he said.

This is the sort of incident that Bean might now have to scrutinise in his new role. After that match finished, there were reports of incidents in the tunnel, with the police being involved. Bean would be ideally suited to conduct any inquiries.

He said: "I am the first point of reference in disciplinary matters." Bean will advise the FA on whether action should be taken. If a personal hearing is then requested by a player before an FA disciplinary committee, he will take on the role of prosecutor, a post that does not exist at present.

He was selected from a shortlist of six, including solicitors, policemen and other people familiar with the judicial system, but was engagingly modest yesterday, particularly about his background. "The FSA opened a lot of doors for me. I will never forget where my roots are," he said.

Peter Johnson is locked in a legal wrangle with Frank Corle, the former Tranmere Rovers chairman, over the control of shares in the club worth more than £200,000.

Lawyers acting for Corle have issued a writ at the High Court in London against Johnson, the Everton chairman, and Tranmere. Corle claims that a move by Johnson to transfer 86 per cent of Tranmere shares to one of his nominee companies amounts to a breach of contract and is unlawful. He also claims that Johnson unlawfully transferred loans totalling almost £4 million to the same company in October this year.



In the runs Thorpe, left, and Ramprakash pose in front of the scoreboard that details their record stand. Photograph: Laurence Griffiths / Allsport

# Record silences England's critics

THE Australian predilection for demeaning anything English had to be temporarily shelved yesterday when a record that had stood since 1920 was broken with some comfort by two of the batsmen on whom the return of the Ashes may depend.

Graham Thorpe and Mark Ramprakash turned a potential innings defeat into something close to a moral victory against South Australia by putting on an unbroken 377 for the England fifth wicket on a day when Australians had woken to the most complacent comments yet about the forthcoming series.

Readers of the nation's tabloid press were treated to the view that "Shane Warne must be foaming at the mouth and pawing at the raw earth at the prospect of sinking his claws into England's top order this summer". By evening, the cutting was pinned up on the wall of the England dressing-room, with appropriate responses, after a partnership that showed that England have the will to defy defeat. If not yet the wit to concoct victory.

South Australia, having attained a first-innings lead of 138 and reduced the touring side to 80 for four, failed to

FROM ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN ADELAIDE

take a single wicket in a day that ended 85 minutes early by rain and in which England added 308 runs.

Ramprakash, whose unbeaten 140 should ensure his place for the start of the Ashes series in Brisbane next Friday, looked irked when reminded of the media scorn. "The local press has been negative about our cricket ever since we landed," he said. "Today, we have shown how hard we are to beat and that we are not going to roll over."

Thorpe was equally dismissive of a media that has scarcely wasted a day in its efforts to pile contempt upon England's prospects, various Australian luminaries continuing to opine that it is no longer valid to play a five-Test Ashes series.

There was no suggestion from either player that England have turned the corner and nor should there be after their pitiful first-innings collapse to 187 all out, which obliged them to spend the next three days trying to save the game.

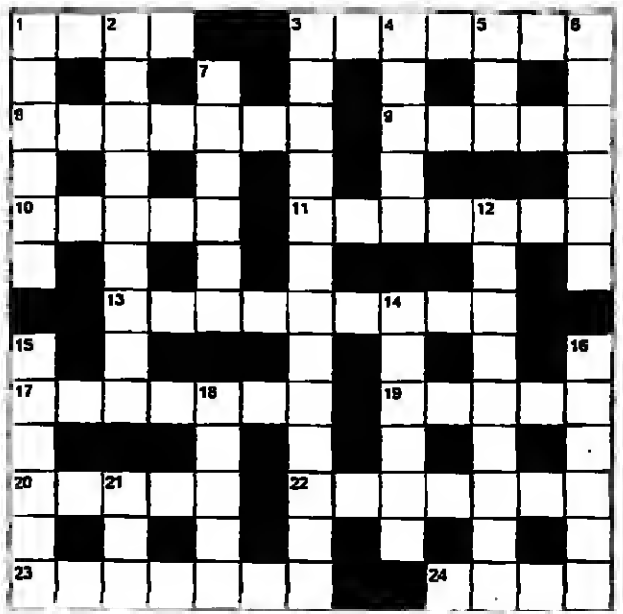
Thorpe, having emerged from a night of sickness and

diarrhoea to make a career-best 223 not out, said: "We know the area in which we have got to be good to compete and that is in the first innings. In this game, we messed up badly."

That they emerged in good spirits was entirely due to a stand that beat, by nine runs, the partnership between Wilfred Rhodes and C. A. G. Russell on this ground in 1920-21 and became the highest for any wicket by an overseas team in Australia.

Match report, page 43  
Simon Barnes, page 43  
Lara in charge, page 43

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1560

### ACROSS

- 1 A lot of (4)
- 3 Vivid; type of arts (7)
- 8 Powdery woodcutting residue (7)
- 9 Joyful (5)
- 10 Find out (5)
- 11 French bean (7)
- 13 About 1092 yd (9)
- 17 Goods sent back (7)
- 19 Hidden store (5)
- 20 Celebrated (5)
- 22 Fr. city, papal palace (7)
- 23 Swinging bar (7)
- 24 Learned volume (4)

### DOWN

- 1 Body tissue; strength (6)
- 2 Racecourse; card game (9)
- 3 Clearly understand (3,3,7)
- 4 Loathe (5)
- 5 Jump on one leg (6)
- 6 The prairie wolf (6)
- 7 Underground passage (6)
- 12 A loudening of sound (9)
- 14 Ploy (6)
- 15 Advantage (6)
- 16 Session with medium (6)
- 18 One between furrows (5)
- 21 NZ extirpated bird (3)

### SOLUTION TO NO 1559

ACROSS: 1 Cowling 5 Radar 8 Sheaf 9 Endermic 10 Esperanto 12 Axe 13 Parson 14 Aprons 17 Leo 18 Enamoured 20 Station 21 Arrow 23 Exert 24 Tremble  
DOWN: 1 Caste 2 Woe 3 Inferno 4 Greta 5 Rodeo 6 Demagogue 7 Rackets 11 Personate 13 Pelisse 15 Profane 16 Garnet 18 Evid 19 Dowse 22 Rub

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# Dalglish's plans threatened by limited company with Celtic

By KEVIN MCCARRA

KENNY DALGLISH'S venture to buy control of Celtic possesses more allure than it does plausibility. Dalglish, a former player with the club, who has also managed Liverpool, Blackburn Rovers and, most recently, Newcastle United, is said to be joining Jim Kerr, the lead singer of the rock group, Simple Minds, to head a consortium that will bid for Celtic.

Anyone harbouring such an ambition has a tortuous path ahead of them, though Fergus McCann, who has a controlling interest, intends to sell up next summer. Complications arise because of the manner in which the club is structured. McCann, contrary to popular belief, does not own a majority of the shares.

Celtic shares fall into two categories: ordinary shares, which carry voting rights, and preference shares, which do not. McCann is in command

for the moment because he bought more than half the ordinary shares. However, in 2001, he would only have one third of the total votes.

Anyone who bought him out next year, therefore, would

have absolute power for just two seasons. It remains to be seen how attractive that limited prize will prove to men such as Dalglish, Kerr and their backers, although the consortium was said by Celtic plc. in a



Kerr consortium



Dalglish: limited prize

statement to the Stock Exchange yesterday, to have requested a meeting with McCann. So far, it has been McCann's plan to offer his holding, in the first instance, to the 9,000 shareholders and to the 50,000 season ticket-holders.

Dermot Desmond, the financier, is expected to increase the already significant stake that he has in Celtic. Many of McCann's shares, which could be worth more than £30 million, are liable to be bought by those who see the club mainly as a profitable investment.

McCann intends that power over Celtic, after his departure, should be widely dispersed, a view he reiterated last night. Any group wishing complete authority over the club would have to forge an alliance with Desmond and persuade McCann to change his mind. Where the Scots-Canadian millionaire is concerned, that has never been easy.

# Organisers bid to lure Maradona

By JOHN GOODBODY

DIEGO MARADONA will probably never be forgiven for his "Hand of God" goal that helped to eliminate England from the 1986 World Cup finals, but football supporters in Great Britain could get a rare glimpse of an ageing and notorious talent in the new millennium.

Negotiations are now "quite advanced" for the Argentinian, who has been at the centre of three drugs scandals in the 1990s, to be one of the international stars for a six-a-side indoor tournament scheduled to begin in April 2000.

Neil Black, the managing director of Aladdin Management, said: "We will be in a financial position to afford him. Although the vast majority of the players will be British, we would like a sprin-

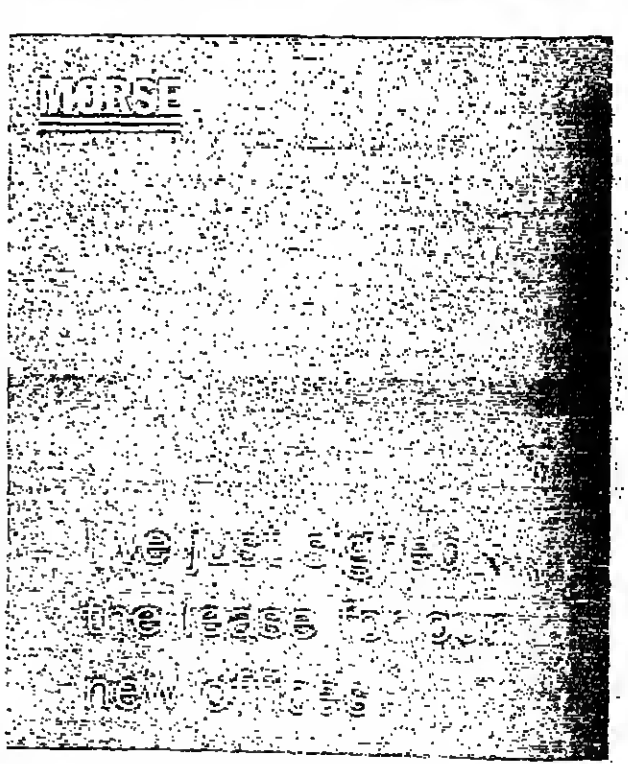
gling of overseas players and are also talking to Jürgen Klinsmann and Lothar Matthäus, of Germany, and Dunga, from Brazil."

Speaking of Maradona, who retired from competitive play earlier this year but is said to be contemplating making a comeback in Spain, Black said: "He would be perfect in a six-a-side tournament and the British public would be very interested in seeing him." However, he added: "He has had huge personal problems in recent years. Obviously, we would only have players in the league who can conduct themselves like everyone else. This is not a circus event, it is a

serious competition. The public would not countenance expecting to see players who do not turn up."

The first pilot event for the Masters tournament will take place at the Manchester Arena on November 19, a quadrangular competition involving Manchester United, Manchester City, Liverpool and Arsenal. Among the players expected to take part are Ray Wilkins, Bryan Robson, David O'Leary, Kenny Sansom, Phil Neal and Jan Molby.

The tournament proper would be held in London, Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield, Glasgow and Belfast. The organisers are hoping that football will acquire the same popularity as Masters events in golf, athletics and tennis.



Naturally, I've never seen them.

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THE TIMES People & property

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11 1998

Selling a house? Soon you'll have to write a book

Welcome to the world of "log books". The central plank of the Government's house-buying reforms...

Sellers may be forced to compile a history of their properties to pass on to buyers. Rachel Kelly looks at a controversial new plan

chairman of the residential committee, says: "While a vendor pack going to the buyer sounds like a good idea, it could cause as many fresh problems as it solves."

BOLHAM HOUSE'S LOG BOOK Mr Hodgkinson's log book contains: Land Registry plans acquired from the vendor's solicitor...

£16,000 fees on selling the property (about 2 per cent of the purchase price) which was in the hands of receivers. The log book included land registry plans, the agents' particulars, details of four let cottages, a grazing agreement and quotes from tradesmen.



John Hodgkinson with the history of his house: "The principle remains 'buyer beware'"

INSIDE KITCHENS New designs for the heart of the home page 3 INCENTIVES Buy a flat with a year's rent guaranteed page 4 RICH KIDS Million-pound buyers are getting younger page 8

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# Why there's room for change in the kitchen

The right cooking area is vital for an ideal home, says Katherine Bergen

One person in ten is dissatisfied with the kitchen they have and the British spend £900 million a year on improving or replacing them. According to research, it is usually the first room to be tackled on moving house. Now that the function of kitchens has changed as lifestyles and eating have become less formal, they are being redesigned and doubling up as breakfast rooms and dining areas as well as just being updated.

Philip Hayes, for Siematic, (01438 369327), has seen the change of the role of the kitchen over the past decade: "Once only very close friends would be invited into the kitchen. Now it is truly the heart of the home and guests even help with the preparation of the food." Mr Hayes adds that customers are much more demanding about the performance of equipment.

"People want two or three different cooking methods, like a steam oven as well as being able to use a wok. Formerly, customer interest was much more about the cosmetic appearance of kitchens."

With the huge interest in cooking, customers care about all the details. Mr Hayes says that property developers are paying much more attention to customer's needs. "People buying in new developments want choice, not just an identical look. Developers are looking at customising to a greater degree."

There is a huge variety and price range to choose from. Siematic kitchens can rise to the £40,000 to £60,000 bracket.

Woodstock Furniture, (0171-245 9989), specialises in the design and crafting of bespoke furniture and kitchens from around £10,000. Timbers are mostly imported from

## KITCHENS

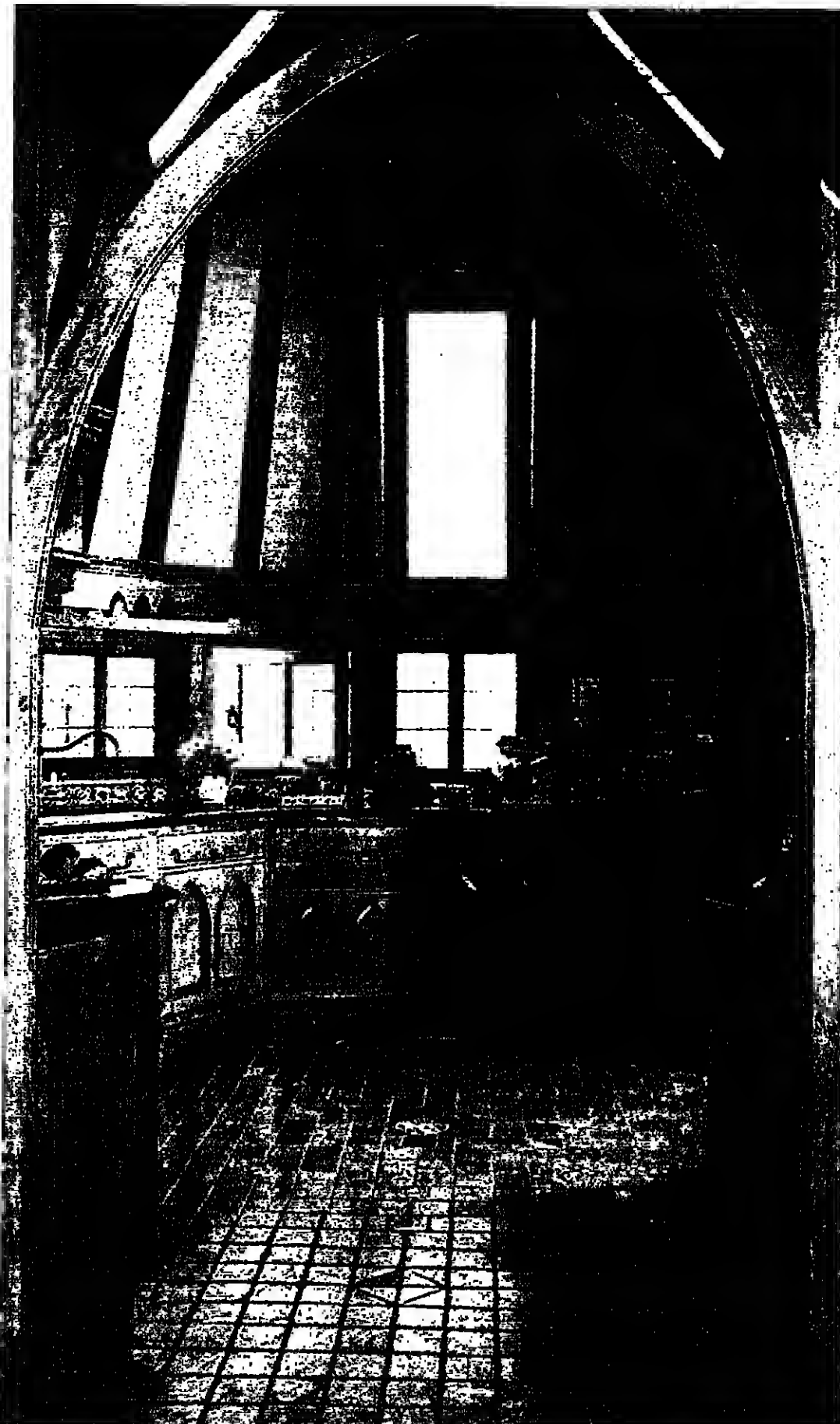
North America from sustainable and renewable sources and include maple, cherry and oak, although the company will use any suitable material or specialist finishes, including painted, veneered inlays.

Roundhouse Design (0171-428 9955) is a partnership of architects and furniture designers who combine contemporary style with traditional workmanship. Kitchens are tailored to each client's demands. James Taylor, for the company, says: "The future for kitchen design combines smooth curves with streamlined efficiency."

Poggenpohl (0600 243781) is well known for contemporary design, ergonomic innovation and the huge choice of materials and colours in its five kitchen ranges. Prices include the cabinets, appliances, floors, lights and fittings and are in the £30,000 range.

Bulthaup (0171-495 3663) offers innovative design which is modern and highly functional. Unlike most manufacturers it produces just one range, the elements of which are all interchangeable. The current System 25, which costs from £15,000, will be joined by the modular System 20.

Roundel Design (01580 712666), based in Kent, has even constructed a Gothic oak kitchen in an oast house. The Gothic arched panels are echoed in the pelmet fretwork and glazed display cabinets. Bow-fronted leaded light windows add to the theme. The company specialises in timbers reclaimed from disused warehouses in old pine, oak, maple and ash.



A Gothic arch is radical but fits perfectly in this Roundel oast house scheme. Right, a traditional kitchen in light oak for more conventional customers, also from Roundel



Custom built by Woodstock, complemented by limestone worktops

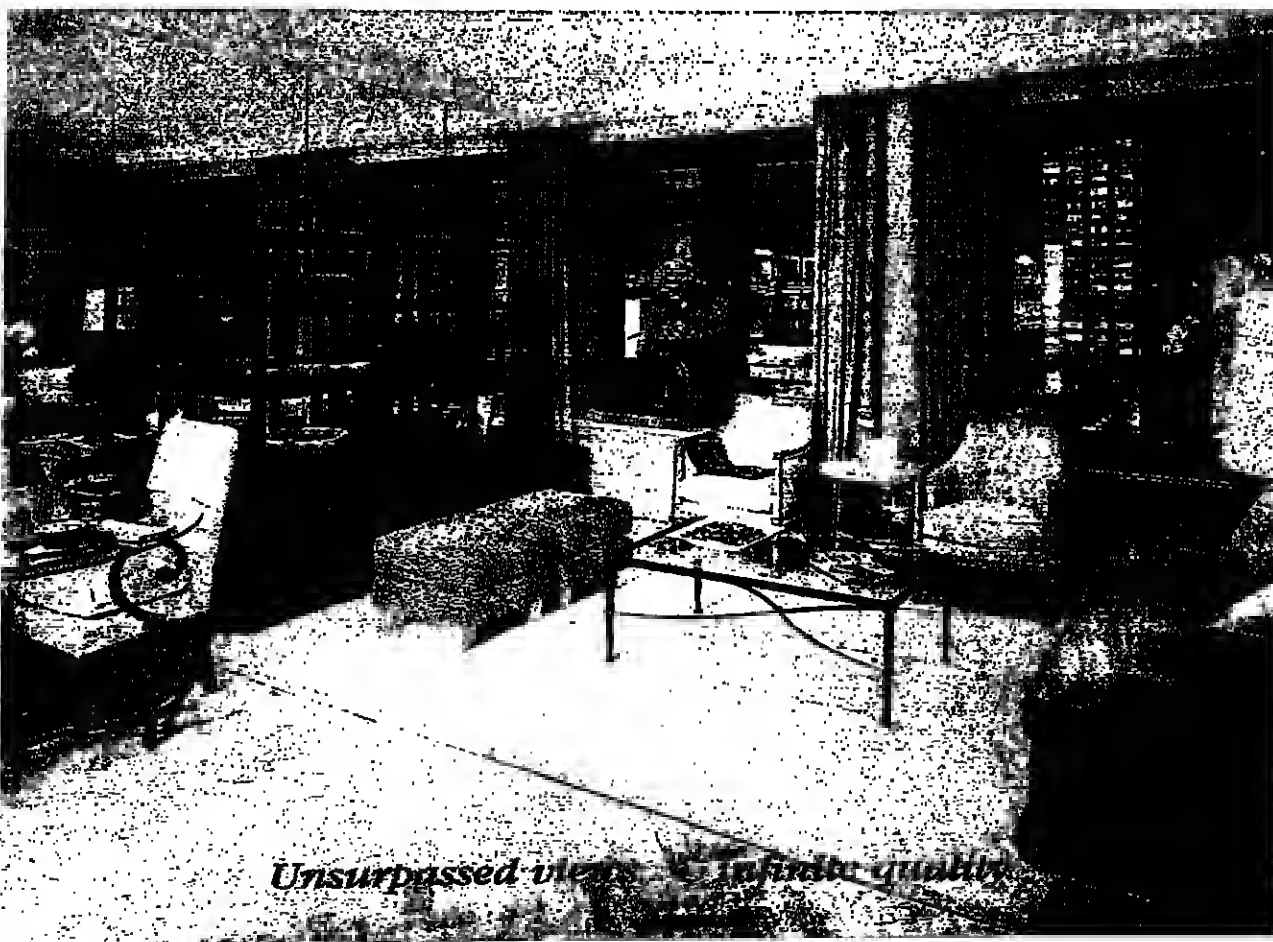


Siematic kitchens harmonise traditional and modern styling



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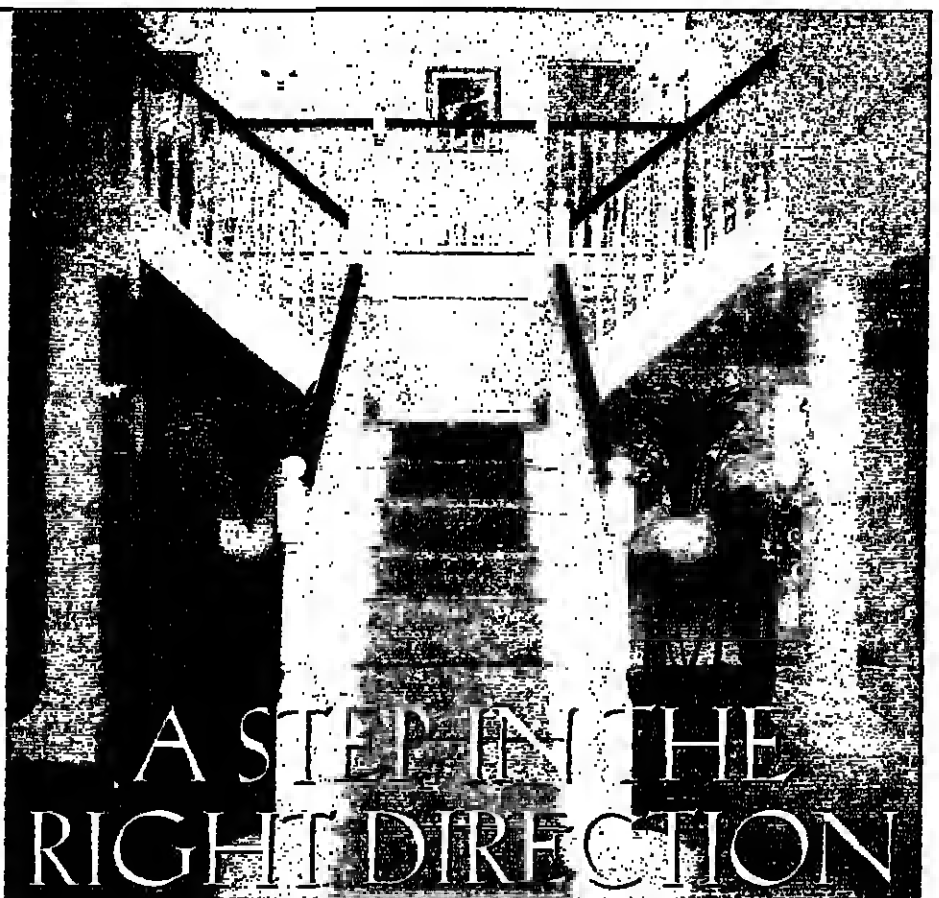
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# How buyers are lured with a few canny incentives

Homeseekers cash in as developers offer deals to beat off competitors. Mary Wilson reports

The slowing market may be causing a few headaches for developers, but for canny purchasers things could not be looking more rosy as house-builders do their best to make their product more attractive than competitors. When the going is good, incentives disappear as fast as quicksilver, but now these are back, aimed at investors and owner-occupiers alike.

Galliard Homes has never shied away from offering a carrot to sell its homes and at three of its most recently launched London Dockland developments it is paying purchasers 10 per cent deposits.

Marketing director Roy Conway says: "The market is far from dead but we want to be one step ahead of our competitors. If it means offering an incentive to purchasers, that is what we will do."

Two-bedroom apartments are available at Cubitts Wharf, a warehouse conversion overlooking the Millennium Dome, priced from £195,000, at Tamarind Court, further east along the Thames at Butlers Wharf from £230,000 and Old Bell Gate, a new development close to Canary Wharf, from £165,000.

Prospero House in The Minories, London, EC4, is an office to residential conversion by WillowAcre, which prides itself on building the right product in the right place. But even this company is offering a year's guaranteed rental income to tempt the investor to its 14 apartments rather than the other schemes available in the City.

"Last year we had no problem in selling our schemes off plan," says Barry Glantz, of WillowAcre, "but now buyers are more cautious. We have total confidence that when Prospero House is finished it will be a popular and sought-after City address. So, as an indication of our confidence, we are offering buyers a guarantee for the first year from completion of a 10 per cent gross return on their investment."

Jonathan Vandermolen, of the agents Blenheim Bishop, which is

selling this development, says: "The difference now is that there is not such an incentive to buy off-plan because there is little perceived growth at the moment. Although we have seen more activity in the last few weeks, buyers still want to feel they are buying well."

Prices range from £150,000 to £325,000. At St John's, on the site of the old Westminster Hospital, London, SW1, Ballymore Properties is turning the block, which was the Queen Mary's nurses home, into 184 one, two and three-bedroom apartments. These overlook St John's Gardens, hence the name of the development, and are priced from £160,000 to £1 million.

Although they have sold well so far, 126 apartments went in four months — the latest phase to be released has the added attraction of a free interior design service. The show flat for these "Limited Edition" apartments has been designed by international interior designer John Stefanidis, and purchasers of any of the 17 apartments will be offered the complementary interior design consultancy services of Mr Stefanidis.

Sean Mulryan, chairman of Ballymore, says: "We are always aiming to establish new benchmarks in design and luxury in every scheme we undertake. We believe purchasers at St John's are looking for something different that can be created to their needs."

"Buyers of the Limited Edition apartments can take the John Stefanidis design a stage further by asking him and his consultancy to create a total look by offering a complete design service."

Apartments in the new phase start at £475,000 and once purchasers have moved in, they will be able to make use of extra services including chambermaid services, valet parking, laundry and an equipped business suite and health spa. This

pro-active encouragement to new buyers is not restricted to London. In Swansea, South Wales, Galliard Homes offered to pay the 5 per cent deposit for 44 one and two-bedroom apartments at Mannheim Quay. It seemed to work. At the launch a few weeks ago all but one of the flats were sold.

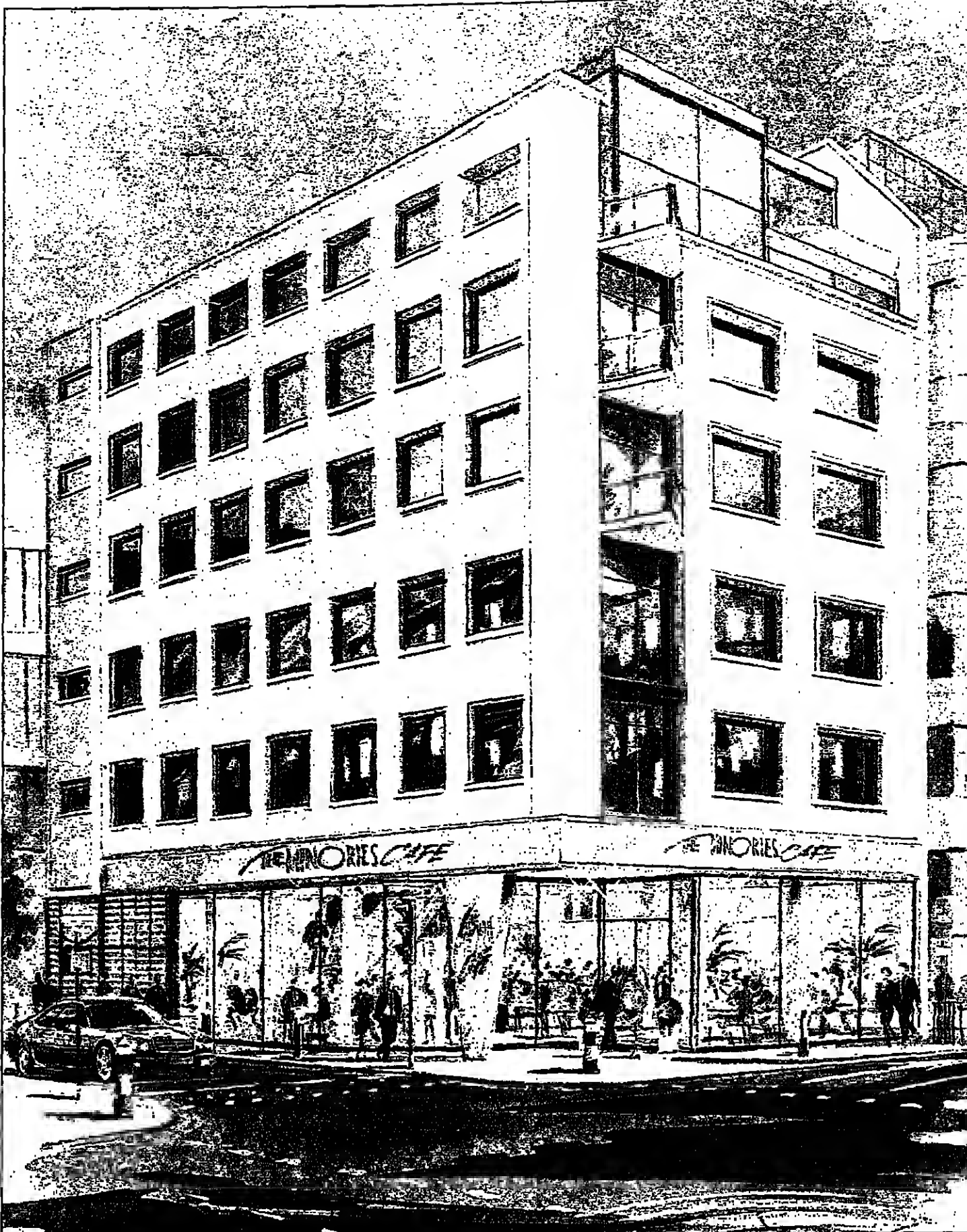
Free leisure facilities are also on offer at a number of developments, which have their own gymnasiums, saunas or swimming pools.

At the Apex Building, an office to residential conversion by Berkeley Homes (North London) in Bunhill Row, London, EC1, the company has just announced that new purchasers will be given a year's free membership of the 7,000 sq ft gymnasium to be built at the development of 34 one, two and three-bedroom apartments. The remaining 20 apartments are priced from £125,000 to £248,000.

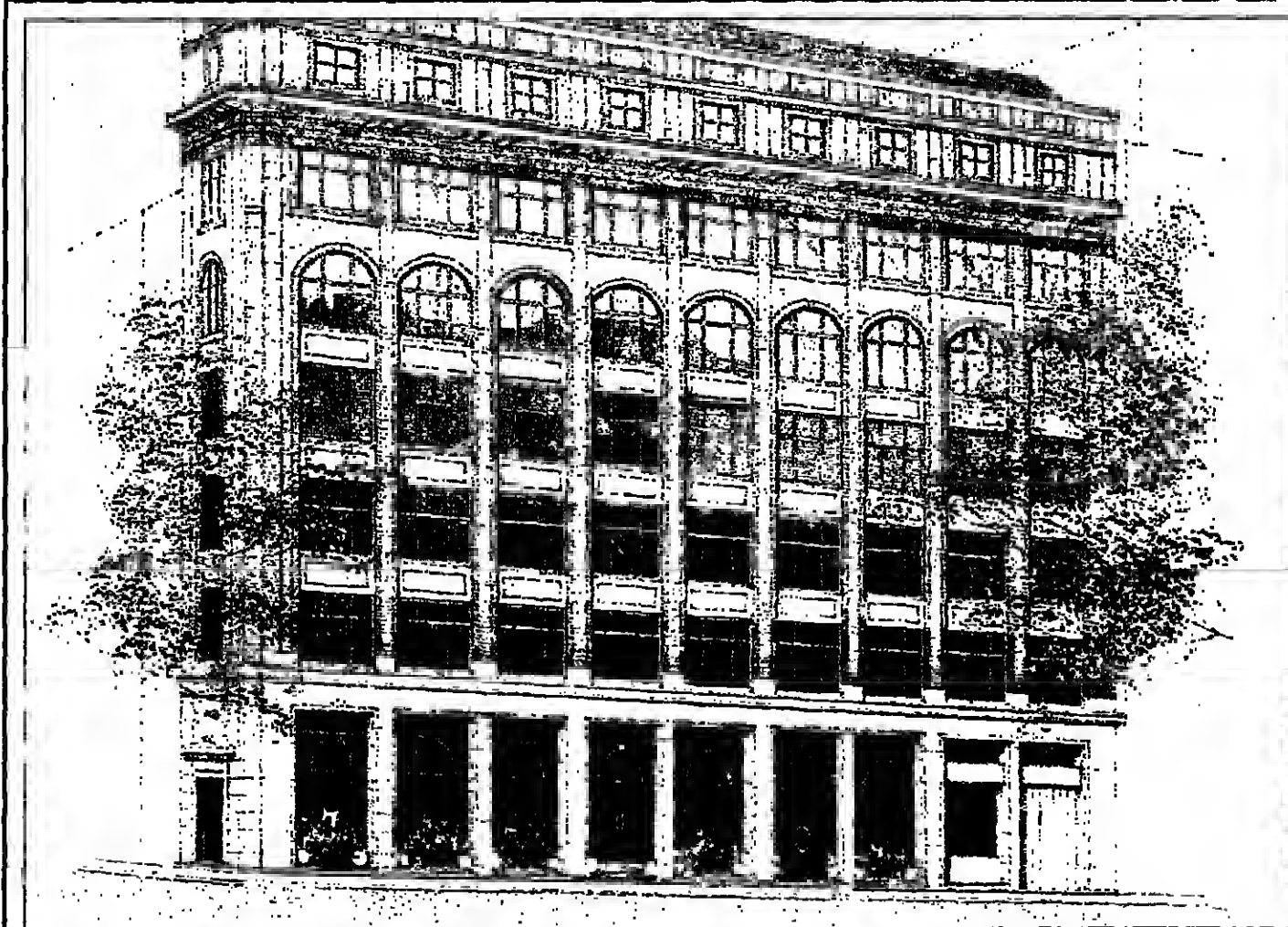
And at Wimbledon Central, southwest London, the developer, Pathfinder Properties, has included a year's free membership of the 24,000 sq ft Esporta Health Club with its 20-metre swimming pool. One third of the development was originally sold to the Far East, before the Asian crisis, and so far the agents, Hamptons, reckon that half the 104 flats have sold for investment. Prices for the 26 remaining apartments range from £152,500 for one-bedroom apartments to £241,500 for a two-bedroom.

So although the number of Far Eastern investors may have greatly diminished, those from the UK, from Europe and most recently from southern Ireland are finding that there are many good deals for the taking.

● Galliard Homes, 0181-508 1281; WillowAcre, 0171-309 9900; Blenheim Bishop, 0171-495 1253; St John's Marketing Suite, 0171-630 8366; Berkeley Homes (North London), 01494 732200; Hamptons, 0171-908 9015.



Prospero House in The Minories, London, EC4 — buyers are offered a guaranteed 10 per cent gross on their investment in the first year



Bridgewater Square, London, EC2 — nine buyers at the Barbican site were attracted to the flats because they were so close to work

## Seeking a walk on the mild side

City slickers are setting up home in the Square Mile. Fed up with commuting, more and more are opting to live near their offices, spurred on by the renaissance of City living. Many of the big names in restaurants and retail have decided to ply their trades. Sir Terence Conran recently opened Coq d'Argon there, as has Gary Rhodes with City Rhodes. A Tesco supermarket is due to open in the old fire station in Bishopsgate. Marks & Spencer is opening another store in Gracechurch Street and Harvey Nichols is opening a new restaurant in Leadenhall Street next spring.

Andrew Culverwell, at Hamptons International in the Royal Exchange, says: "I believe that people are disillusioned with commuting and are fed up with journeys of more than an hour. They are beginning to realise the benefits of living just a five or ten-minute walk from the office. The City is also coming alive after dark. Most of the wine bars stay open late and the infrastruc-

ture is being put in place. Applicants vary from young City professionals to older high-powered businessmen or chairmen looking for a weekday pied-à-terre.

It is something of a snowball effect. Once a person moves in they tell their friends and colleagues. And rents are slightly cheaper than in the West End: a good two-bedroom flat here will achieve about £300 a week, compared with around £450 a week for the same flat in Chelsea."

Nine of the buyers at 6-9 Bridgewater Square, for sale through Hamptons International and Knight Frank, bought the flats near the Barbican Centre so they were able to walk to work.

People were moving out of the City ten years ago, says Jonathan Vandermolen, at Blenheim Bishop, but now people who travel in

noticed a growing demand for properties in the City over the past three years: "We have four of five schemes there at the moment, whereas five years ago we would only have one at any given time."

People are now moving back. They have to work harder to make a living and are expected to spend more time at the office. People feel that commuting is time wasted."

Blenheim Bishop sold several flats at Sovereign House, next to the site of the proposed new Goldman Sachs building, off Fleet Street, to City people wishing to walk to work. Many of those bought as investments have been rented by similar types.

Barry Glantz at WillowAcre, who developed the scheme, says: "One stop on the Tube is a commute, and I am not the only one who thinks so. A high number of those buying or renting in our City schemes work within a short distance of their new homes."

Paul Vallone, at Berkeley Homes, which has a number of schemes on the go in the City, has

## Expatriates return to find more than they bargained for

A growing number of expatriates are returning to Britain following the handover of Hong Kong to China and the more recent economic turmoil in South-East Asia. The average expatriate has been out of the country for at least two to ten years, during which time the changes that have taken place, especially in the residential property market, are enormous.

Robin Paterson, group managing director of the property agency Hamptons International, which sold nearly 3,000 properties last year, explains: "The first difference someone returning to live in Britain will see is a financial one. The asking price for a four-bedroom family house in Wimbledon, south London, would have been £300,000 a decade ago, or £175,000 for a house of similar size in Guildford, Surrey. Today the house in Wimbledon is priced at £595,000 and the Guildford home at £349,500."

That represents a sizeable increase in the cost of buying a house, even taking into consideration inflation over the past ten years and an increase in stamp duty from 1 per cent to 3 per cent.

Another area where expatriates will notice a significant difference is in the rental market, which has

### COMING BACK

also seen a considerable rise in monthly rental costs: a four-bedroom family house in Esher, Surrey, has increased from £2,150 a month to £2,500, while a similar size house in Wimbledon has increased from £2,000 to £4,000.

"We are now beginning to notice that expats are becoming more cautious on their return to Britain and it is far more likely that they will rent for their initial six months back home," says Mr Paterson.

"This is usually because people do not want to commit to a purchase in a particular area, or they might be uncertain about their long-term career prospects, having been out of the country for so long. "In some cases it is simply because they may want to take time before making the purchase of a new house so soon after arriving back in the country."

Relocation advice to people on the move has also undergone a change in the standard and range of services available. Ten years ago the extent of relocation advice for the average company executive returning to Britain would have included a choice of three houses in

a certain location and an information pack from the company's human resources department.

Employers are now taking the lead and providing their workforces with a much greater level of support. Today, employees of multinational companies have an "orientation consultant" to advise them on legal and financial matters, rental agreements, where the best schools are, careers advice for their spouse and even quarantine laws affecting their pets.

"Companies used to own their own residential property portfolios, which was limiting to their staff. The trend is now to employ an intermediary to provide employees with a more comprehensive service," Mr Paterson says. "Our customers now demand a comprehensive service that will take on board all the worry of a major relocation or move back to Britain."

Hamptons, in a field that is becoming an ever more complex market for residential services, is developing its business with that in mind — and is now in detailed negotiations with a joint venture partner, with the aim of providing that comprehensive service.

CHRISTOPHER WARMAN



A four-bedroom house in Wimbledon goes for £595,000 — ten years ago it would have cost £300,000

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Wealthy rock stars and computer whiz-kids are reshaping the top end of the housing market, says Jenny Knight

MILLION POUND CLUB

Million-pound house buyers are getting younger. Thirty-somethings now routinely stroll into estate agents' offices with a list of minimum requirements including swimming pools, acres of land, six bedrooms and a stable block. Many pay cash while the rest explain that they need only a small mortgage to take care of the last £100,000 or so.

Some want a home suited to a simple lifestyle of hard work and socialising: a two-bedroom penthouse in Central London with plenty of space, great views, top security and parking for two cars. When they hear the price tag, they don't blanch.

The bulk of Britain's most expensive homes used to be bought by people in their fifties, with one in ten going to the over-sixties. Now, according to statistics from Knight Frank, 55 per cent of buyers are in their forties, ten per cent are in their thirties and only 3.5 per cent in their sixties. And there is even a smattering of sales to men and women still in their twenties.

Foreign buyers account for a high proportion of £1 million-plus sales, and agents report that they, too, are getting younger.

Rupert Sweeting, of Knight Frank's country house department, says: "People used to aspire to a £1 million house and, after piling up their money for years, ended up buying a huge house, so that most buyers were in their fifties and sixties. Now people are making money younger and the age gap is dropping."

There is a smattering of young rock stars, sports stars and show-business people, but there are a number of amazingly young business successes, especially in the computer industry. These whiz-kids can sell out when they are still very young and make something like £40 or £50 million.

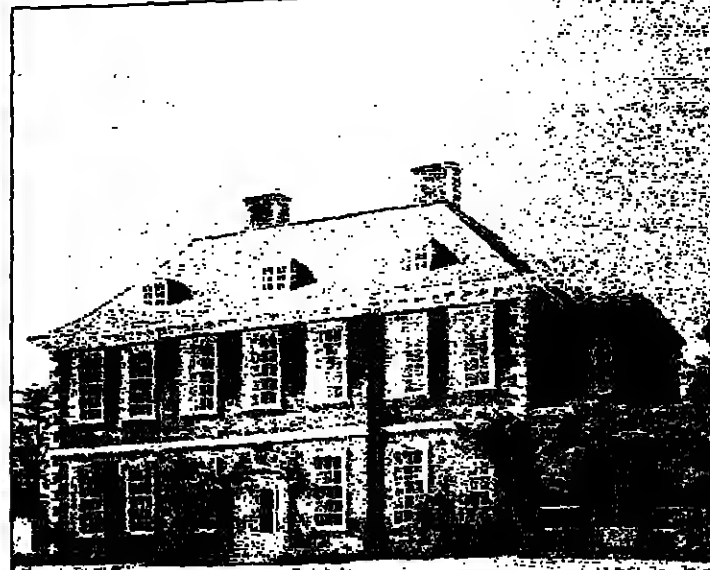
There are more millionaires in the UK than ever before and they are getting younger. Most like to buy country houses with lots of toys, like swimming pools, tennis courts, a cottage in the grounds and land. There has been an increase in fortunes made by people in sport, fashion, entertainment, advertising and publishing. These professions are dominated by younger businessmen and women.

Howard Elston, head of Strutt & Parker's Knightsbridge office, says: "It's not unusual any more to sell a £2 million house to someone in their mid-thirties. Single men and women in their early thirties might spend about £1.2 million on a flat, while those in their late thirties with children buy larger houses priced at £2 to £3 million."

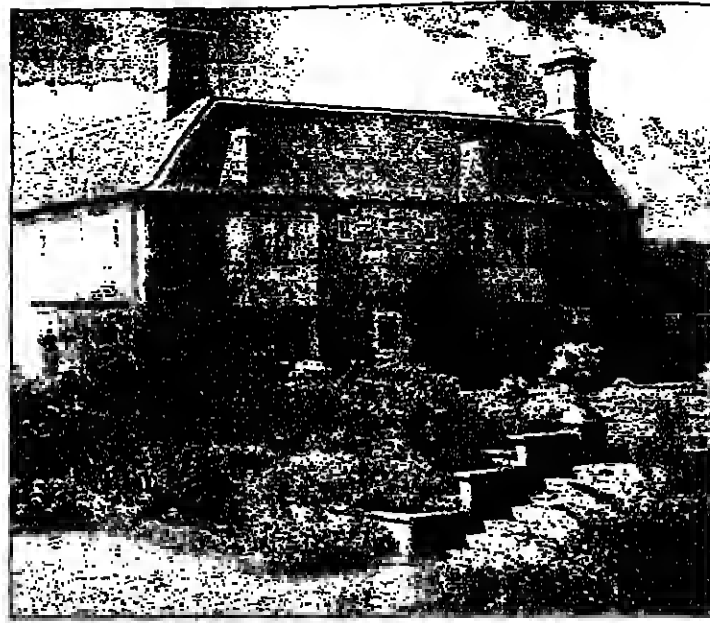
A lot of older people no longer want to live in London because it is too busy. "Most of the 60 to 70-year-olds we see in this office are selling up and leaving London," says Mr Elston. "Expensive areas like Belgravia and Knightsbridge, which 20 years ago were quite stiff and formal, are now dramatically different with a buzz and excitement which appeals to younger buyers."



Labour of love: stonemason Andre Vrona and wife Patsy worked for nine years on Heath House, near Stamford, above (dining room) and right, virtually rebuilding what was an almost derelict property



Stanhoe Hall, above, has lured the Vrona family to Norfolk



# Young guns with loot to spare

One of the reasons for the rise of the youthful buyer in the £1 million-plus bracket is the effect of inflation on house prices. Even relatively modest homes can now easily top the £1 million mark. FPD Savills reports that Wandsworth, a once seedy area in southwest London, has registered average house price rises of 119 per cent over five years. It has seen a growing number of £1 million-plus house sales as the large homes near the common rocket in value.

John Denney, Hampton's country house director for Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire, says that even returning expatriates, who used to return home to England in their late fifties or early sixties looking for a grand retirement home, are getting younger.

"Returning expats, many from South Africa, are now typically in their mid-forties," he says. "As far as age is concerned, everything has

come down a gear. The older age bracket is looking to capitalise on the good market — by scaling down to a smaller country place they can lock up and leave, with maybe a flat in town or a cottage abroad. Their large houses are being bought by much younger people. We now come across very wealthy 35 to 40-year-olds. We no longer see so much family money, but a lot more new money which is being made at a much younger age."

Noticeably, only a small minority of the £1 million properties are being bought by women. And Lottery winners are not well-represented. The ferocious cost of maintaining £1 million-plus homes means most Lottery winners simply haven't won enough to enter this market. While a brand new million-pound house will not need a penny spent on it for the first few years, grand period houses slurp up the money. "The bigger the house, the bigger

the bills," Mr Sweeting says. "You need a very different sort of income to live in a major house. We estimate the annual cost of living between £43,250 and £64,500. And it costs more to furnish a bigger house. The simple pine furniture and prints which might suit a cottage are a long way from the heirloom antiques and oil paintings that are a requisite part of a manor house lifestyle."

Knight Frank says even a farmhouse with four bedrooms and ten acres would cost up to £14,000 a year to run. This includes £3,000 for lighting and heating, £500 for water rates, £900 to £1,200 council tax, £500 security, £800 to £1,000 insurance, £3,000 to £4,000 on a gardener and cleaner, and £5,000 for annual maintenance. Running costs for an old rectory with six bedrooms could reach £21,900, while an eight-bedroom manor house can cost up to £64,000 a year.

CASE STUDY: NICO RENSCH

ARCHITECT and interior designer Nico Rensch, 40, has moved house five times in the past four years, progressively moving closer to the £1 million mark. He's on the move again, from a five-bedroom house, Cheynes Farm, in Cotterel, Hertfordshire, with paddocks, stables and a two-bedroom cottage.

"A million pounds still sounds a fascinating, big-time figure, but it is much more achievable nowadays," he says. "I work for clients whose homes have cost several millions. A recent client with a £2 million penthouse was in his mid-thirties."

Mr Rensch is house-hunting in Sussex for something suitable for his wife, two children, a horse, and four dogs. He intends spending 10 to 15 per cent on top of the purchase price on changes to the new house. "Cheynes Farm is a 500-year-old house, which seems a strange place for a modernist architect to live, but old houses were very simple and the two styles go together very well," he says.

The Rensch family is moving because he does a lot of work in Sussex and also because they feel they are not utilising the space they currently have. Cheynes Farm is priced at £875,000 (Strutt & Parker).

CASE STUDY: ANDRE VRONA

ANDRE VRONA is a £1 million-plus buyer at the age of 42, after turning his present home, Heath House near Stamford, into a million-plus property. He and his wife Patsy are moving to Stanhoe Hall, in Norfolk, a Grade I Queen Anne house priced at £1.25 million, located four miles from Burnham Market.

They have spent nine years turning Heath House into an attractive contemporary home with splendid gardens. It was nearly derelict when Mr Vrona bought it, prompted by magnificent views of open country.

"It would have fallen down if we hadn't bought it," he says. "The gardens were just a field but now they are open to the public, and my pride and joy."

The L-shaped house has been virtually rebuilt, retaining the style of an impressive but simple farmhouse. There are stone-mullioned windows, stone fireplaces and wall panelling. The use of traditional materials and techniques has avoided any hint of pastiche, Mr Vrona, a stonemason, did most of the work himself.

"Quite a few who have looked at the house have been very young," he says. "Tastes used to be cultivated later in life, but these people are very discerning." Heath House is priced at £1.25 million (Strutt & Parker).



## A superior interior

WHOEVER buys the £4.75 million apartment in Chesham Place, Belgravia, above — being sold through Knight Frank — will get the *haute couture* of interior design. Carole Langton, of Langton Interiors, who was commissioned to decorate this property, says that a classic mid-European look is the most likely to appeal to a buyer. "Anything too modern or trendy looks dated very quickly," she explains.

Generally she submits several design schemes to the developers before they decide on one. In the case of Chesham Place, she furnished it with antiques. The buyer can then purchase anything required to keep.

"We have sold the entire contents to new owners if they like the look," Ms Langton says. "Equally, we know that some clients get their own designers in and

change everything." The difference at this end of the interior design market is not just in being able to use the most expensive fabrics and antiques, but also in the additional attention to detail. Bathrooms even have chrome toothbrushes and perfumes — one, appositely, being Envy by Gucci. The fridges are full of champagne, and the flowers and fruit are changed daily.

Another Belgravia property decorated recently by Ms Langton is at 118 Eaton Square, formerly the Ski Club of Great Britain. There you will find Louis Vuitton suitcases in the dressing rooms and even a pair of riding boots.

After all, if you were paying more than £17 million for a 75-year lease, you probably would expect to have handmade curtain tiebacks.

## Inside a designer's home

Katherine Bergen discovers how a tribal flavour can change your living room

Interior design gurus say that one of the questions most frequently put to them is "What does your own house look like?" In a new interiors book, published this month (*House Sensation*, Quadrant, £19.99), Anne McKeivitt bravely uses her home to illustrate how you can transform an interior.

Ms McKeivitt has gone native. She explains the inspiration for the tribal look: "I was influenced by a book of tribal portrait photography which strengthened my belief in the centuries-old need to humans for self-adornment and decoration."

"The images and influences in my living room are of a more primitive way of life, but adapted to enhance a sense of calm living in a 21st-century room. In other words, my aim was to forge a link between our organic roots and the manufactured." Ms McKeivitt warns against being dictated to by existing architec-

HOME IMPROVEMENT

ture. Her living room had once been four separate rooms — it takes vision to imagine how the space would alter after knocking walls through. She colour-blocked the walls, picking up on the charcoal and red, vegetable-dyed faces of the tribal portraits. Buff willow screens, providing a change in wall texture, are reminiscent of African huts.

Veering away from Africa, the free-standing sculptures in her home remind her of the rocky outcrops and coastlines of her native Scotland. For more shape and texture, on a smaller scale, she has included cast-concrete pots and lava-stone urns. To complement it all, she has used classic furniture in graphic shapes, upholstered in fabrics in a mixture of neutral shades and brighter colours.

Ms McKeivitt's book is not confined to her

own property. There is a useful chapter on decorating rented space. As she points out, there are many restrictions on what you are allowed to do. Wall colours must remain the same, existing furniture cannot be tampered with and solid partitions cannot be built.

She advises a quick coat of paint — even one specified by the landlord — which can brighten up a tired, fading room. Remove any bad-taste objects and store in a cupboard, cover stain-covered sofas and armchairs with inexpensive throws or bed spreads. Ask the landlord if he would like the floorboards exposed and varnished instead of covered with a tatty carpet.

There's no point spending money on things you will have to leave behind so invest in removable fabric runners and wall hangings to change the space and mask unsightly objects.

In case you are baffled by builders' jargon, she also has a section defining such terms.



Culture clash: a mix of tribal photographs and modern furnishings is aimed at creating a sense of calm in Anne McKeivitt's home

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11 1998

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Luxury homes in the sun command high rentals when not in use by the family, writes Diana Wildman

How you can clean up in Spain

AS I supervised the emptying of the septic tank for the second time in two weeks I pondered on the advantages of owning property in Spain.

In Spain, there is such a thing as "horizontal freehold". This enables you to own an apartment freehold. It also means that there is no freeholder to attend to the maintenance.

The community elects a president as legal executor of duties to do with the whole of the property. Usually there isn't much to do as we have handed over the administration to a property agency.

Everybody else was at the beach. I was supervising the discharge of the cesspit. Next I had to go to the office of the Notario (a Spanish commissioner for oaths) to sign power of attorney to an agency representative.

Earlier in the year the weather had taken a turn for the worse on the Costa Blanca. The roof had needed repairs before this, but the rain brought the point home.

These are my tips: Never buy or put a deposit on a property that is not finished. The Costas are littered with barely started developments.

Never hand over money to anybody without going through an abogado (solicitor). British expatriates have a habit of talking "key money".

Conveying the deal through the abogado will ensure that the escritura will be recorded in your name at the Land Registry in Madrid.

Apart from all that, buying a place in Spain was one of the best things I have ever done.

STEPHEN BRENNAN



The 420-acre Parque da Floresta estate at the western end of the Algarve is close to fishing villages and beaches. Prices range from £115,000 to £225,000

Make profit at your leisure

SPAIN & PORTUGAL

Portugal and Spain have long attracted northern European property purchasers keen to acquire a holiday home in the southern sunshine.

Leisure facilities such as golf and tennis, beach club and marina, not to mention a swimming pool, are a major consideration and the chance of substantial rental income is, for some prospective Iberian homeowners, an increasingly important factor.

The continuing weakness of the peseta currently at about 227 to the pound is encouraging investors from northern Europe to buy into purpose-built Spanish schemes. Although we all love the idea of a rural finca deep in the Sierras, in reality buying into a well-managed resort with ongoing rental income is a far more practical option for most of us.

The 4,000-acre Sotogrande Estate at the western end of the Costa del Sol is well renowned for its sporting facilities. These include three championship golf courses — one of which is Valderrama, venue for last year's Ryder Cup — tennis and racquet centres, two polo fields, two beach clubs and a marina.

Sotogrande SA is selling a variety of property, including two-bedroom marina apartments and townhouses from £90,000 to £220,000, detached villas from £300,000 and three-bedroom villa suites, being sold on a sale and lease-back agreement, adjoining the Almenara Hotel planned for completion within a year, for £170,000.

Nigel Smith, the managing director, plans to change Sotogrande into a self-contained leisure community and the company has its own year-round rental and management service.

Estate agent Denise White of White Real Estate, based within Sotogrande, advises clients that families paying £1,500 a week for a three-bedroom detached house with a pool in July and £2,000 per week in August demand a well-presented home with good furnishings, a modern kitchen with all appliances and a telephone/fax machine.

A two-bedroom beachside apartment is for £800 per week in August. Malaga airport is a 1hr 20min drive and Gibraltar a mere 15 minutes.

La Manga on the Costa Calida is a sporting complex par excellence and consists of numbers of purpose-built villages scattered among its 1,100 acres. Here Select Resorts have a variety of resale homes from £32,000 for a two-bedroom apartment in Bellaluz Village.

Next January La Manga's latest village, Los Olivos, being developed by Resort Properties, will start construction and will consist of 102 spacious two and three-bedroom apartments grouped around a central swimming pool within walking distance of the vast tennis and racquet centre. Prices are from £126,500

and reservations are being taken for off-plan sales with stage payments during construction. Select Resorts says that rents will be from about £850 per week in high season.

Facilities at La Manga include three golf courses, riding stables, water sports, a five-star hotel and a wide selection of boutiques, bars and restaurants.

A number of purpose-built residential schemes are being constructed in the rolling countryside near Lisbon, close to the historic towns of Sintra and Estoril. The newly completed motorway system now means the 1,200-acre Belas Clube de Campo, a golf and tennis development, is a mere 15 minutes from Lisbon airport and a ten-minute drive from both Sintra and the Atlantic beaches.

Around the completed 18-hole championship golf course at Belas some 240 spacious apartments are being built — all with balconies and facing south over two communal swimming pools towards the golf course. They range from one and two-bedroom properties at asking prices

of £100,000 and £165,000 to a seven-bedroom duplex penthouse complete with a private pool for £380,000. About 200 have already been sold.

For those keen on a detached fairway villa, half-acre plots cost £170,000 and Alex Boletho, Belos's sales director, says: "A package of plot and five-bedroom villa with swimming pool and double garage will cost around £400,000 with an 18-month completion date. Most buyers so far are Portuguese and we have two types of purchasers.

These are the retired, requiring a peaceful existence, and the forty-somethings with children, who need a good leisure home. We have a mini-market with laundry, tennis courts, a maintenance service and special green fees for owners and guests."

The 420-acre Parque da Floresta estate at the western end of the Algarve is close to fishing villages and sheltered sandy beaches. It boasts a leisure centre with swim-

ming pool complex, gymnasium, four tennis courts and a bowling green. There is an 18-hole golf course and a selection of bars and restaurants. Already 180 villas and golf homes have been completed and a further 95 will be available. Some two and three-bedroom homes are for sale now, priced from £115,000 and £225,000.

Andy Burridge, Parque da Floresta's marketing manager, says: "We guarantee a rental return to purchasers of £5,500 pa on a two-bedroom golf village house and £6,500 pa on a three-bedroom villa. We will also pay the running costs of the property for a year but purchasers are liable for their own taxes."

In addition to the financial return owners are entitled to eight weeks' use of their property in a year, two weeks in high season and six weeks off-peak."

The 2,000-acre Quinta do Lago estate is extremely popular, not least because it boasts three golf courses and is a mere 20 minutes from Faro Airport. Set on 35 acres of a wooded hillside is its latest

scheme called Encosta do Lago which has established landscaping, a stylish clubhouse, tennis courts, pool and access to the golf courses on which owners and rental guests are entitled to a 25 per cent green fee discount.

Select Resorts are selling a selection of two and three-bedroom apartments priced from £133,000 to £225,000 plus a selection of villa plots at Encosta do Lago which will be completed towards the end of next year. A 25 per cent deposit is required on contract with stage payments through to completion.

Pauline Bonanni of Select Resorts says: "Rental income will be some £1,000 for a two-bed apartment and £1,200 for three-bedrooms during high season. The homes have broad terraces with views towards the wind-surfing lake and sea."

Belas 00351 1962 6110; Parque da Floresta 01223 316 820; Select Resorts 01202 291906; Sotogrande SA 0181 940 9406; Denise White 0034 956 795 699; Resort Properties 0034 968 175 000

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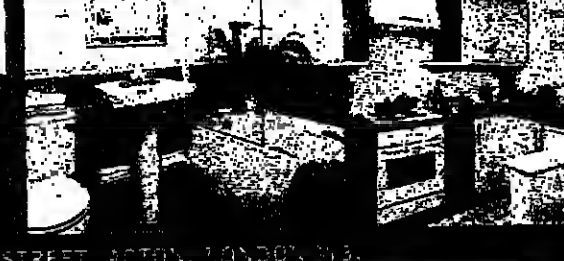


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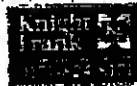
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# Putting their trust in Blackheath

### How has one inner London village retained its charm and elegance while others have been destroyed by distasteful development? Stephen Brennan reports

Later this month the Blackheath Preservation Society will offer a new form of protection to the architectural treasures of the hilltop east London village that bears its name. A new conservation order? Not at all: the village centre will get a closed-circuit television (CCTV) system to guard against vandalism and crime.

Due to be launched on November 21, it should bring peace of mind to the shopkeepers who have witnessed a rise in theft since criminals were driven out of bigger local shopping precincts by improved security measures.

The Trust made up a shortfall in the CCTV's funding as a gesture to mark its diamond jubilee celebrations, which began last month. This new-found involvement with security, however, is somewhat at odds with its natural instinct to take risks.

"With every project we do, the chairman says 'this one will make us bankrupt,'" says Neil Rhind, the Trust secretary.

Few urban villages so close to the centre of town can match the elegance of Blackheath; but its preservation has been no accident. Sixty years of risk-taking by conservationists have paid off.

Blackheath became developed as one of the first stockbroker belts for the City of London at the turn of the 19th century. There was no railway then, so businessmen would take a coach to Greenwich and then a barge to the City.

From the heath, which adjoins Greenwich Park, there are spectacular views across London. These, plus the village's old world character - with names such as Tranquil Vale, The Paragon and Vanbrugh Castle - have tempted celebrities such as Glenda Jackson, Danny Baker, Ken Morley of *Coronation*

#### PRESERVATION

Street fame) and Tina Earnshaw (Oscar nominated for her make-up work in the film *Titanic*) to make it their home.

For the property buyer, Blackheath does not come cheap. A first-time buyer requiring a small, modern two-bedroom terrace house would have to part with upwards of £150,000, decent flats average £250,000, and recently a five-bedroom Georgian family house

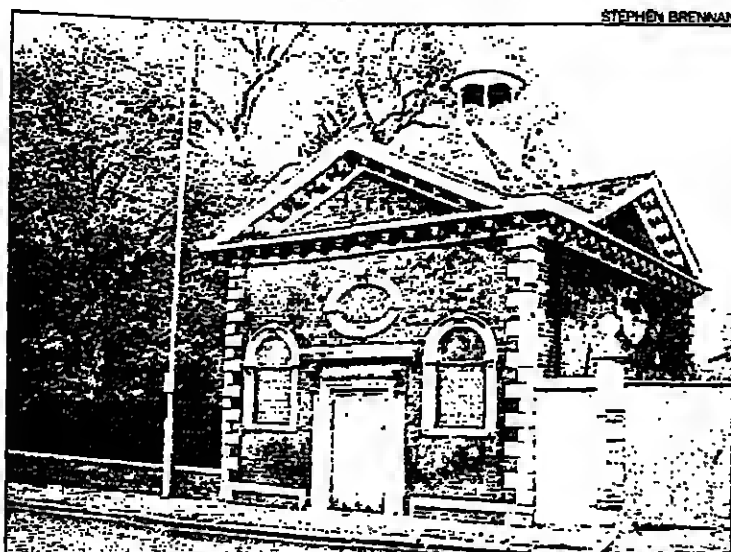
It is the only Grade I listed building in Lewisham and until 1993 was on the English Heritage buildings-at-risk register.

The Trust is seeking aid from English Heritage and the National Heritage Memorial Fund. The Blackheath Historic Buildings Trust, a new charity, is being set up so that conditions of grant aid can be met. However, restoration work will be supervised by the Blackheath Preservation Trust.

The Trust was founded in 1939 by Alan Roger Martin and William

Davidge. A pioneering organisation, it had two prime goals: "to adapt existing buildings to modern uses and to conserve the present amenities in Blackheath; and to protect from dilapidation, disfigurement or destruction any building or place, in or near Blackheath, which is of beauty or historical interest."

The techniques that the Trust pioneered in the Thirties were then con-



Boone's Chapel in Lee High Road was probably designed by Wren

changed hands at £1.4 million. Many purchasers, however, might think the money well spent to live in a village where even the almshouse chapel was designed by Christopher Wren. Or was it?

The rescue of Boone's Chapel in Lee High Road, a Grade I listed building attributed to Wren and dating from 1683, is the Trust's latest project. Originally it was an almshouse chapel built for Christopher Boone, a citizen of the City of London, allegedly to the design of Wren.

Wren and Boone, both members of the Merchant Taylors Company, were good friends and historical detectives have concluded the chapel is almost certainly the work of Wren. Though no one can be positive, it has been empty and not used for worship since the Forties.

considered novel, but have since inspired many similar organisations. The Trust sprang from the Blackheath Society, founded in 1937 by the distinguished woodcarver Douglas Percy Bliss. He was alarmed at the "unrelenting public and rapacious private enterprise" which was threatening to overtake the district.

By then, the best parts of Lewisham and Lee Green had already been destroyed by speculative development. The society and its creation, the Trust, were determined that Blackheath Village, then still less than a century old, would not be vandalised.

Martin and Davidge drummed up a fighting fund of £3,000 and set about saving the area using an untried tactic: buy up, secure, do up and sell on.

In this way, the Trust gathered momentum and became a signifi-



BROOKLANDS HOUSE was built by George Smith in 1826 when he was surveyor to the Cator family, the local landlords after whom the estate is named. Now its turret apartment is for sale at £199,950. Brooklands, used as a family house until 1918, passed into social club use and tennis courts were built in its large

grounds in the Thirties. The house was bought by the Blackheath Preservation Trust in 1983 - just in time, because it had been allowed to deteriorate from the Thirties to the Seventies. Now the building has been restored and the truncated grounds landscaped. The two-bedroom apartment features a luxury bathroom

and kitchen and is located on the first floor. The second bedroom, with balcony, is in the turret and a trap and retractable ladder leads to the second room in the turret. Original features include wooden blinds built in to the casements of the living room windows. Contact: *Winkworth*, 0181-852 0999.

cant landlord in its area. It has been largely through its efforts that Blackheath has kept its identity, while other areas have not.

Since its foundation, the Trust has rescued and restored many buildings with no public money. Most of them are now listed by the Department of National Heritage.

The Trust owns five acres of woodland between Maze Hill and Vanbrugh Hill in Greenwich,

which it keeps as a wildlife sanctuary.

Its best-known properties include Vanbrugh Castle (Grade I, 1719), Blackheath Concert Halls (Grade II, 1895), Blackheath Railway Station (Grade II, 1845), The Cedars, Westcombe Park Road (1865), 3-9 Tranquil Vale (Grade II, 1845) and Poplar Cottage, Charlton Road (Grade II, part late-15th, part late-17th century weather-boarded cottage).

Its most recent completed scheme was the Blackheath Art Club (1885) at 47 Bennett Park. The building once housed the GPO film studios (where *Nightmail* was made in 1936, and *Target For Tonight* in 1942).

The Trust repaired the building and converted it into 11 one and two-bedroom apartments, which were sold on long leases.

As part of the jubilee, Mr Rhind says: "We sponsored a seminar on historic building management with the Association of Building Preser-

vation Trusts. We had about 50 people from preservation trusts from all over the country. We had speakers including some senior people from English Heritage and held a reception at Blackheath Concert Hall."

He describes the Blackheath Concert Halls as "probably our finest hour - but I think every project we get involved in is the most exciting, and then when it's done we're on to the next one, another challenge." Contact: *Neil Rhind*: 0181-315 5692.

## Parents with children at boarding school need nearby homes, says Diana Wildman

#### RURAL PROPERTY

Long gone are the times when parents bade a tearful farewell to their young offspring at the gate of a rural boarding school knowing the family would not meet again until the half-term exeat. Today's parents are expected to participate fully in many aspects of the school curriculum. Pupils seem to have free time virtually every weekend and the expectation is that they will go home.

As so many of top public and prep schools are set in beautiful locations, many parents are considering investing in a second home near the chosen school. Stephen Kingsley, 45, a solicitor, and his wife Jennifer, who live in Kensington, have two sons, Thomas, 12, and Patrick, nine, who board at Horris Hill prep school in Newbury. Last month they bought a five-bedroom, 18th-century mill house in two acres by the River Lambourn in the village of Donnington, West Sussex, which, when the new A34 opens, will be only ten minutes' drive from their son's school.

Mr Kingsley says: "When Thomas first boarded, we bought a cottage near Salisbury, but this proved impractical because it was a two-hour return journey to the school and too small for entertaining. So we sold it and rented while searching for our precise requirements. The plan is to keep the Mill House for at least the next five years until Patrick leaves Horris Hill; but everything is flexible these days. Thomas is going to Eton next year but can easily get to Newbury by train from Slough - just a 30-minute journey."

"Jennifer and I drive from London on Friday evenings and the boys simply love being in their new home 20 minutes after I pick them up. Spending up to four hours each weekend ferrying the boys back and forth before returning to London - as we used to - is not fun. We bought a large house and we plan to spend a lot of the school holidays plus half-terms there."

The Kingsleys bought their home through David Milligan of Knight Franks Hungerford office for more than £700,000. Mr Milligan says: "Concepts have changed over the past ten years and parents are expected to participate in a child's boarding-school education. Several parents were considering buying a country home, anyway, so it makes sense for them to buy as close to their child's school as possible."

"Marlborough College has a number of parents who own either a town house within walking distance or a cottage in the surrounding Wiltshire countryside. A classic example is Primrose Cottage, a pre-war four-bedroom village house complete with heated swimming pool



Four-bedroom Primrose Cottage, at £365,000, is ideal if your children attend Marlborough College

## Easy terms available with country houses

and double garage in Shalbourne, a conservation area nine miles from Marlborough. The asking price is £365,000. For parents wanting to let during summer holidays, Primrose Cottage could fetch £500 a week.

Charles Yeoman of Strutt & Parkers' Harrogate office deals with inquiries from parents with children at Ampleforth in North Yorkshire, Sedburgh. Will Carling's *alma mater* in Cumbria, and prep schools, including Bramcote in Scarborough. Though school fees are the same as in southern England, a two-bedroom cottage can be bought at a fraction of the price. Mr Yeoman says: "A small terrace cottage near Sedburgh on the edge of the Lake District can cost £75,000 and could be let for between £200 and £300 in the prime holiday season. The same size cottage in Ampleforth would cost more than £100,000 and the summer rental would be the same."

With so many good boarding schools in and around Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire, the Cotswolds attracts families seeking a

country home in a delightful location, yet close to schools.

Derek Lewis, a partner with the City law firm Theodore Goddard, and his wife Bridget, who live in Richmond, Surrey, have recently sold their four-bedroom house in the Cotswold village of Weston Sub-edge and have bought a two-bedroom period cottage in nearby Laverton, paying £185,000 through Hayman Joyce, a local agent.

Their daughter, Sarah-Jane, was at St Mary's, Wantage, and their sons, Christopher and James, attended Radley College near Oxford. As James comes to the end of his schooling and the two elder children no longer weekend regularly with their parents, the family's needs have changed.

Mrs Lewis says: "We inherited the house, a 45-minute drive from Oxford, six years ago, which made it much easier to bring the children out at weekends. We had been considering buying for a long time before that. We now love the area so much that we have decided to keep a country base here long-term."

"We found that we were at one school or the other every weekend to watch the boys in matches, meet the teachers or just to take the children out to tea on non-exeat weekends. Having a country base close to the schools transformed our weekends."

Cheltenham has several world-renowned public schools, including the Ladies College. Earlier this decade, its then headmistress marketed her school in the Far East and attracted a lot of pupils from Hong Kong.

According to Lynn Simmonds of Hamptons, many parents have bought a town centre apartment as a UK base, which they use for several months of the year.

"They buy to lock up and leave so they look for good security and parking," she says. "Proving popular are the new mock-Regency apartment blocks built by Beaufort. A typical two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment costs about £220,000."

Knight Frank, 01483 682726; Strutt & Parker, 01423 561274; Hayman Joyce, 01382 558510; Hamptons, 01242 225909

## Bath fears it could drown in own waters

Beneath the elegant, unruffled Georgian foundations of Bath, something is stirring. Millennium plans to restore the remains of five sacred Roman spas are causing concern that the extra visitors they will entice to the city centre will spell extra congestion.

The re-opened spas will not just be museum pieces. Visitors will pay up to £14 for two hours of refreshing therapy in the calm of the sensitively rebuilt pools and treatment rooms. These new Elysian Fields will be clad in designs by the acclaimed architect Nicholas Grimshaw. But with Bath already flooded by tourists will the £20 million Bath Spa Project, bringing an estimated 600 more visitors every day, really benefit residents?

Malvin Tyler, who owns a computer hardware company and lives in a house in The Circus after moving from London, is used to large numbers of visitors peering through his ground-floor windows as they pass by.

"We wave back at them, there's no problem. But I'd like to see tourist coaches switching to natural gas, some of them are 30 years old and belch out black gas in your face, which isn't too good for us or the drivers. To switch would be a reasonable compromise."

Comments such as these temper his overall support for the project, which is expected to start in earnest in spring next year, with Dutch spa operator Thermacae working closely with Bath council to make the venture a success.

John Croft, who lives in Circus Mews, regrets that some of the members of the Circus Residents' Association, many of whom are retired, have a negative response to the spa project.

"This may change when it gets underway," he says. "An environmental grounds the association, of which he is chairman, finds the extra numbers of tourist coaches it will bring into the city objectionable. 'There needs to be more priority for pedestrians,' he says. 'We're rather overrun by these lumbering buses, this is a hilly city and it's not easy for disabled people. It's got to be better organised.'"

Comments such as these on a range of initiatives spurred Bath residents to form a federation of resident associations ten years ago. William Bloomfield, its chairman, leads no fewer than 18 groups with a catchment of about 20,000 people. While very supportive of the project's goals he longs for the day when there will be an integrated public transport system, and ur-



Traffic congestion in Bath from tour buses is already acute

#### POLLUTION

gently wants to see all cars out of the city's premier shopping zone, Milson Street.

"The pollution in the city is acute," he says. "The pavements overflow at busy times. Bath council is always crying wolf about its finances yet it owns the city centre and is always commissioning reports from outsiders. I am not anti-council but some of the decisions come from the wrong people."

Mr Bloomfield is confident new transport links within the city will be in place when the spa project is ready, but is frustrated by the time it takes to get replies to letters written to the council. "Bath needs this project. Why can't all the councillors be behind it?"

John Cowley, senior partner at estate agent Crisp Cowley in Stall Street, says he is not a city centre resident. "And I would not want to be," he says. "The number of tourist coaches - about 28 - going through the city all the time is excessive - six would be quite enough. On the other hand, I know people who like living in the centre. As for the impact on property prices, I don't think more congestion will lead to an adverse effect."

Less convinced is Simon Waterfield, a commercial property agent. "More traffic will be a disadvantage to Bath. I've noticed how things have got worse in the last six

years. All this won't help the residential market, or any other business which isn't connected to the tourist trade."

Like Mr Bloomfield, Mr Waterfield believes the plans deserve recognition. But he doubts whether local people will make much use of the pools and treatment rooms priced at the lower end of the scale. "The new buildings will be interesting to people who like Roman remains and who come for the day," he says.

Bath council estimates the project will inject another £5m every year into the local economy. In her essay *Holy Water*, the writer Joan Didion wrote that pools are "a symbol not of affluence but of control over the uncontrollable". Like the Romans before, Bath's city fathers are seeking to exploit their resources in a controllable, orderly fashion, harnessing teams of experts to give them an edge in tourism's competitive arena.

But the environmental price of this may be high, and unpleasant for those residing within this humid bowl of the Cotswolds. There are already worrying signs of wear and tear to parts of the historic city - even to its most famous architectural landmark.

The fine stone and wrought-iron fences of the Royal Crescent need repairing. It is possible that increasing numbers of visitors will take the glow off living in such a beautiful city.

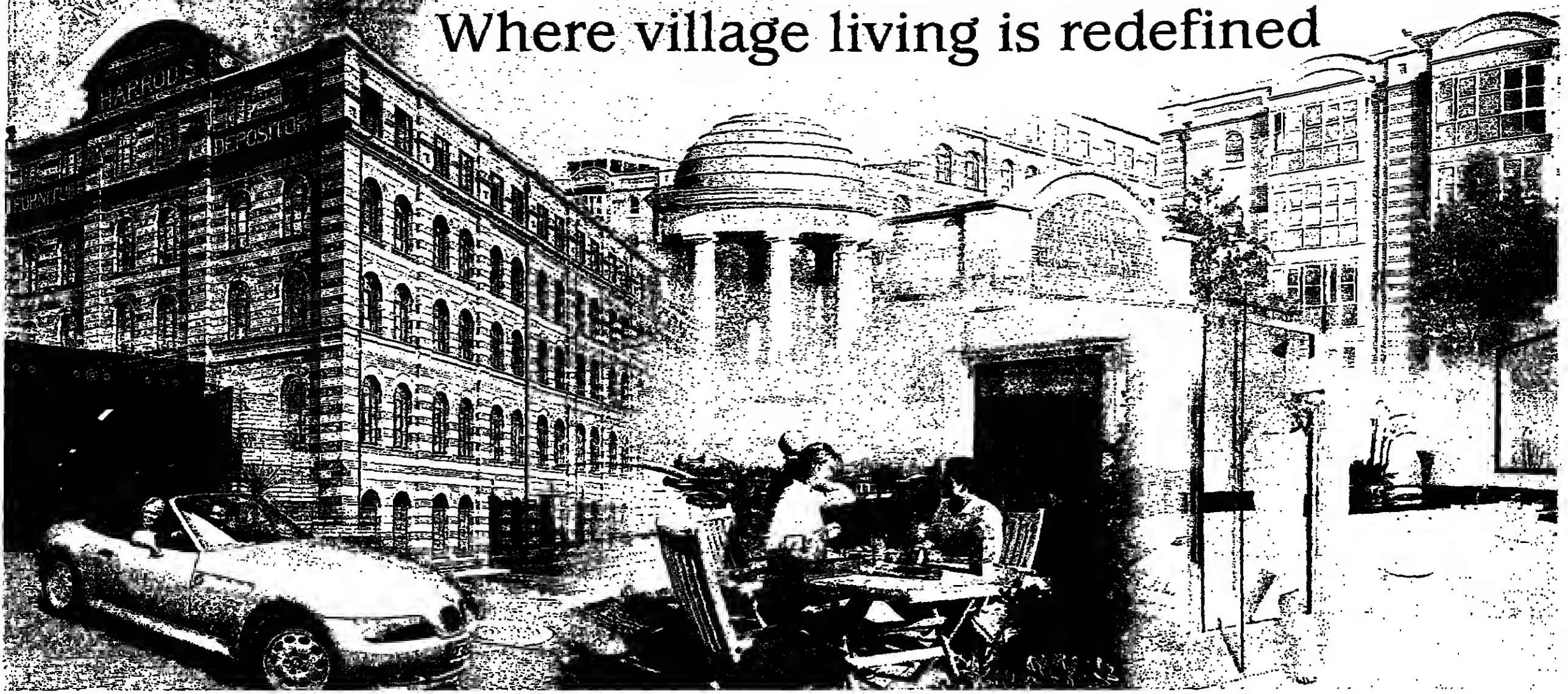


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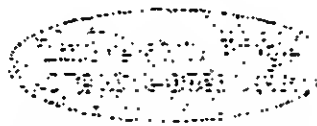


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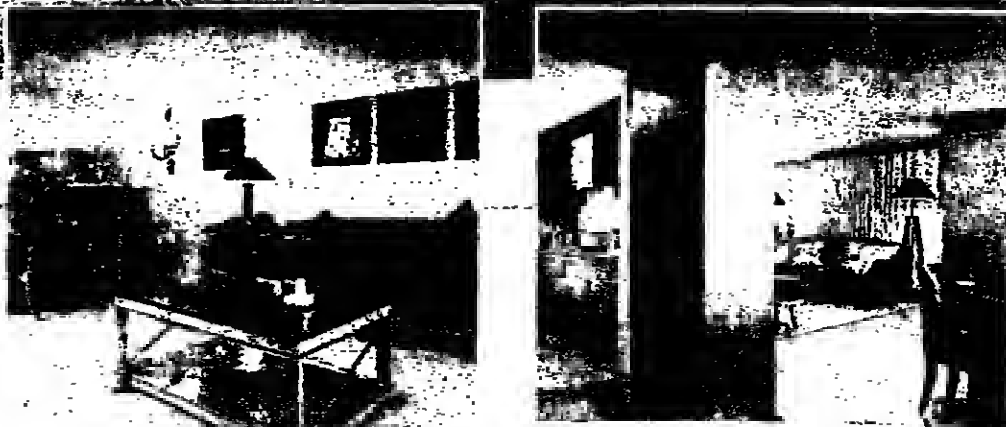
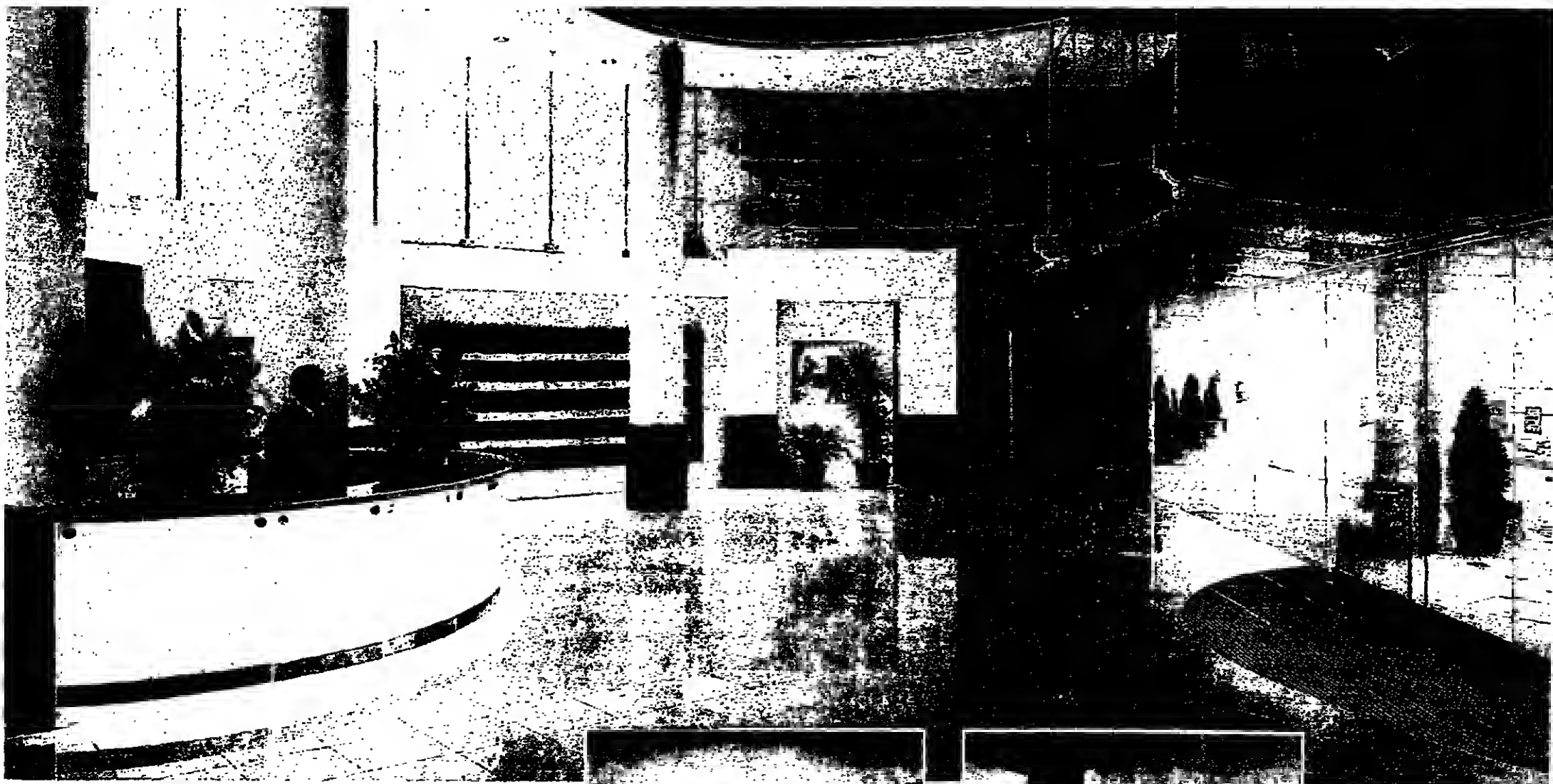
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